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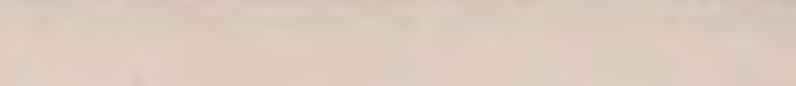
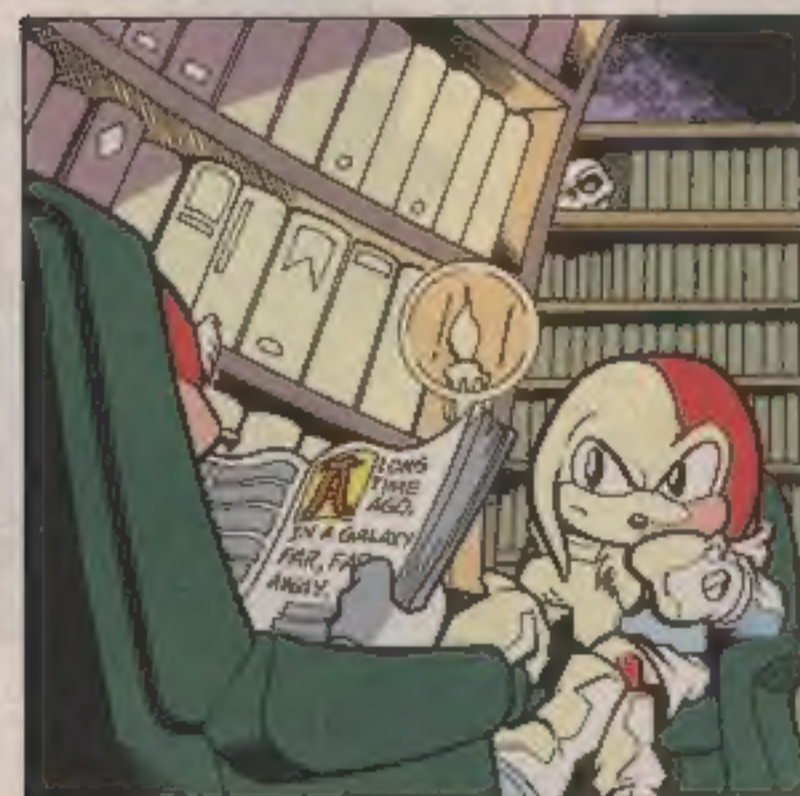
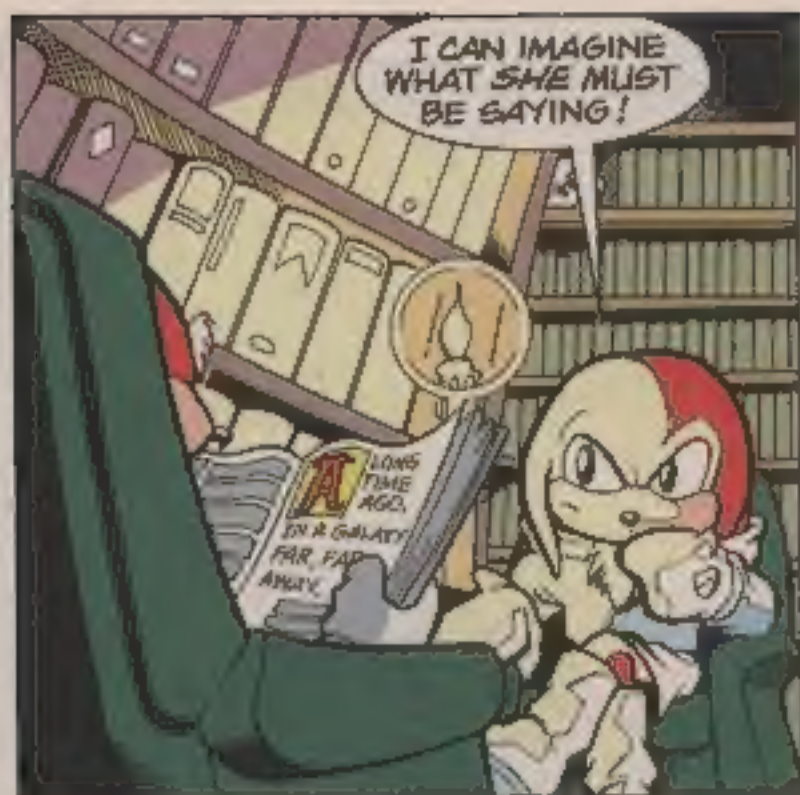
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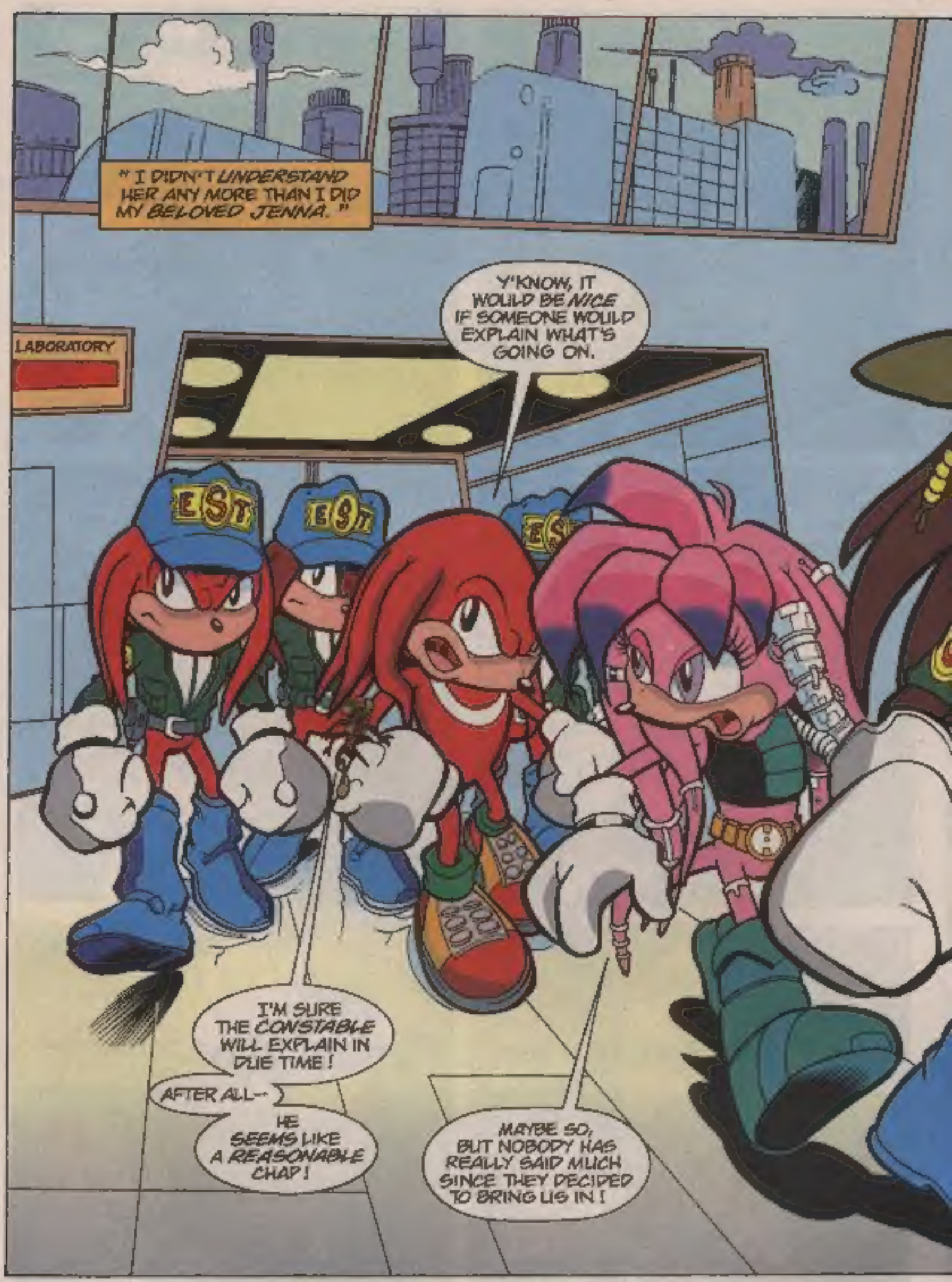
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**IMAGINE GROWING UP MOSTLY ALONE,
WITH THE BELIEF YOU ARE THE LAST OF YOUR KIND,
NEVER HAVING A FRIEND JUST LIKE YOU.
YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT. YOU MAY EVEN RESENT IT.
YOU DO, HOWEVER, LEARN TO DEAL WITH IT.**

**THIS HAS BEEN KNUCKLES' REALITY FOR MOST
OF HIS LIFE. NOW, UPON REDISCOVERING
THE LOST CITY OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS, IT BEGINS TO
DAWN ON HIM THAT LIFE AS HE KNEW IT WAS JUST
AN ILLUSION. WITH HIS TRAVELING COMPANIONS
ARCHIMEDES AND JULIE-SU SERVING AS CONSTANT
REMINDERS THAT THERE STILL REMAINS
A LOT HE DOESN'T KNOW OR UNDERSTAND,
KNUCKLES SEEKS OUT THE ANSWERS TO THE
QUESTIONS THAT CONTINUE TO HAUNT HIM.**

**WHAT HE FINDS WILL BE MORE
THAN HE BARGAINED FOR...**





"I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
HER ANY MORE THAN I DID
MY BELOVED JENNA."

Y'KNOW, IT
WOULD BE NICE
IF SOMEONE WOULD
EXPLAIN WHAT'S
GOING ON.

I'M SURE
THE CONSTABLE
WILL EXPLAIN IN
DUE TIME!

AFTER ALL—

HE
SEEMS LIKE
A REASONABLE
CHAP!

MAYBE SO,
BUT NOBODY HAS
REALLY SAID MUCH
SINCE THEY DECIDED
TO BRING US IN!

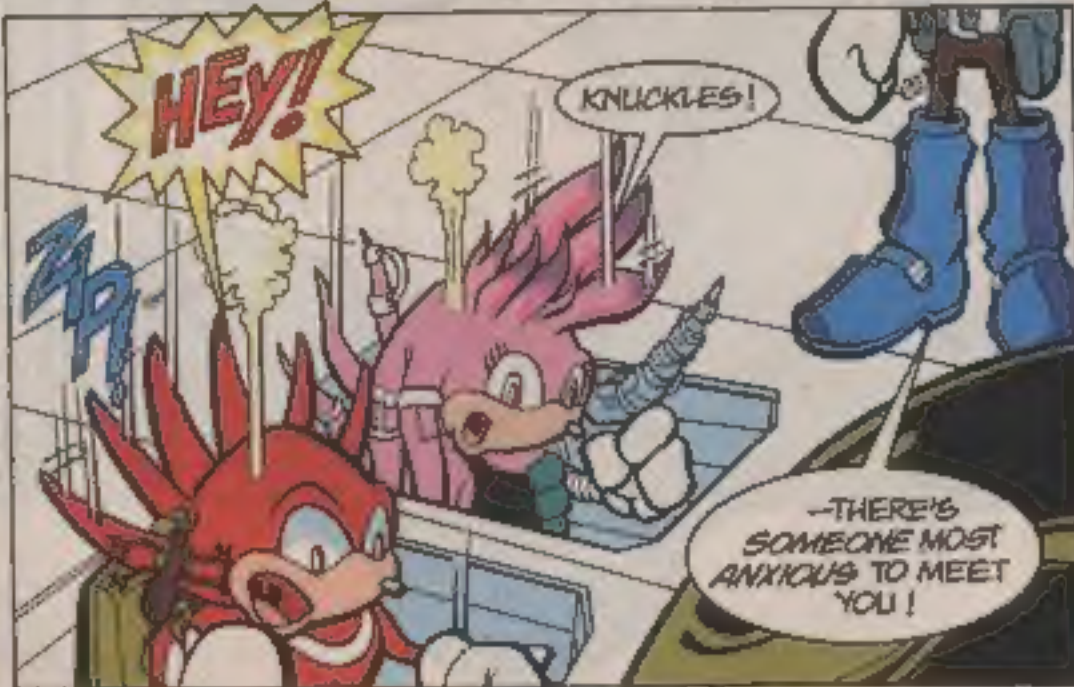


YES, SIR!

CONSTABLE
REMINGTON IS TAKING
THEM INTO THE
BRIEFING ROOM RIGHT
NOW!

I'LL
SEE THAT HE
GETS YOUR
MESSAGE!

FALL OUT





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COLORS SO LOUD, YOU CAN DANCE TO 'EM!



HERE'S HOW TO
BOOGIE
LIKE A BRONTO!



WAVE YOUR ARMS
AND RAISE YOUR RIGHT
FOOT PRONTO...



POINT YOUR FINGERS
TO THE GROUND. SHAKE
YOUR OTHER FOOT AND
TURN AROUND!



WIGGLE YOUR TAIL
FOR FRUITY TASTE...



AND DO A
FANCY
WALK-IN-PLACE!



BEND OVER FAST AND
TOUCH
THE FLOOR-



GRAB YOUR BEST
FRIEND'S PEBBLES
LIKE BEFORE!



I THINK YOUR PEBBLES ARE
BRIGHTER THAN YOU ARE, FRED!
HEE HEE!





ARCHY!

HOW DO YOU
STOP THIS CRAZY
THING?!!



I THINK IT
JUST DID!

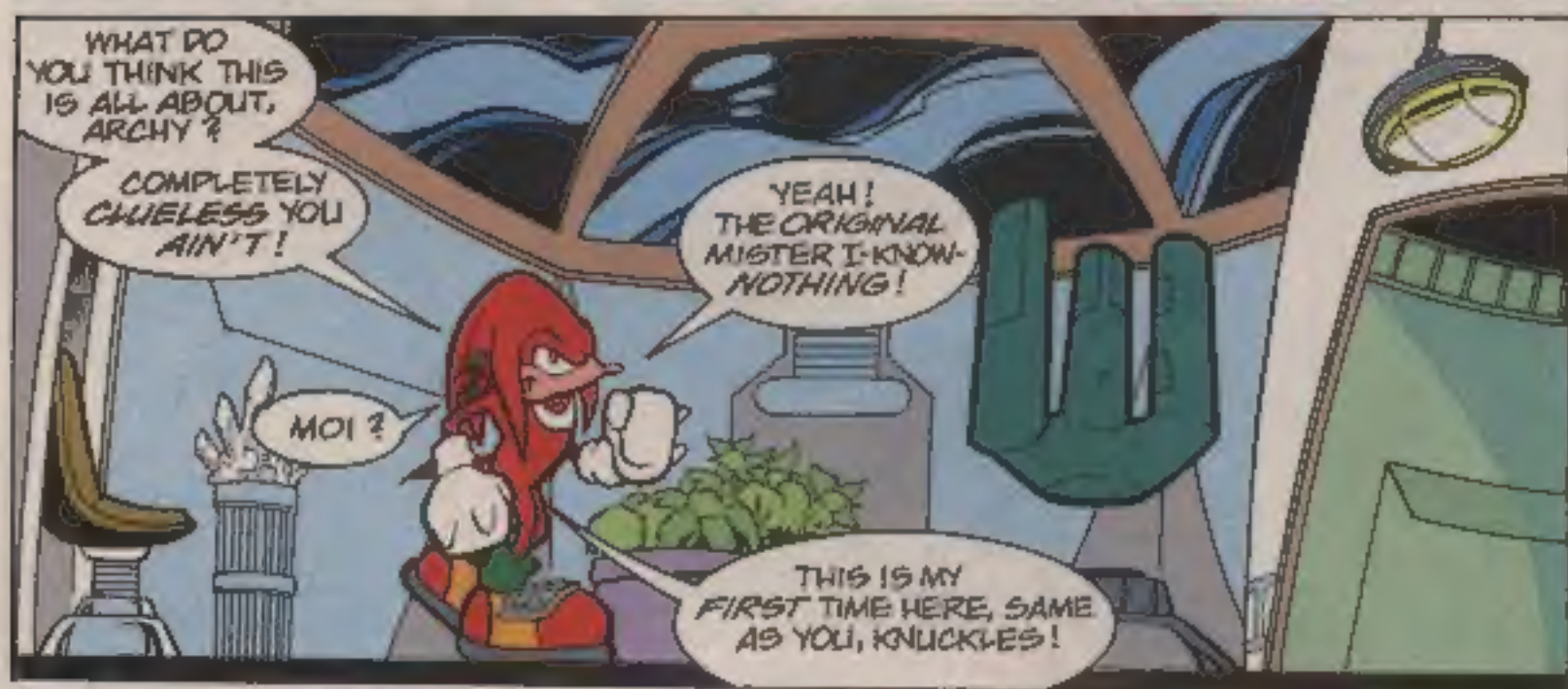
SOFTER
THAN EXPECTED,
BUT STILL A LITTLE
ROUGH ON THE
TUSH!



WHY
ISN'T JULIE-SU
WITH US?

IF THEY
HURT HER—

RELAX
KNUCKLES. I
THINK SHE'LL
BE OKAY!



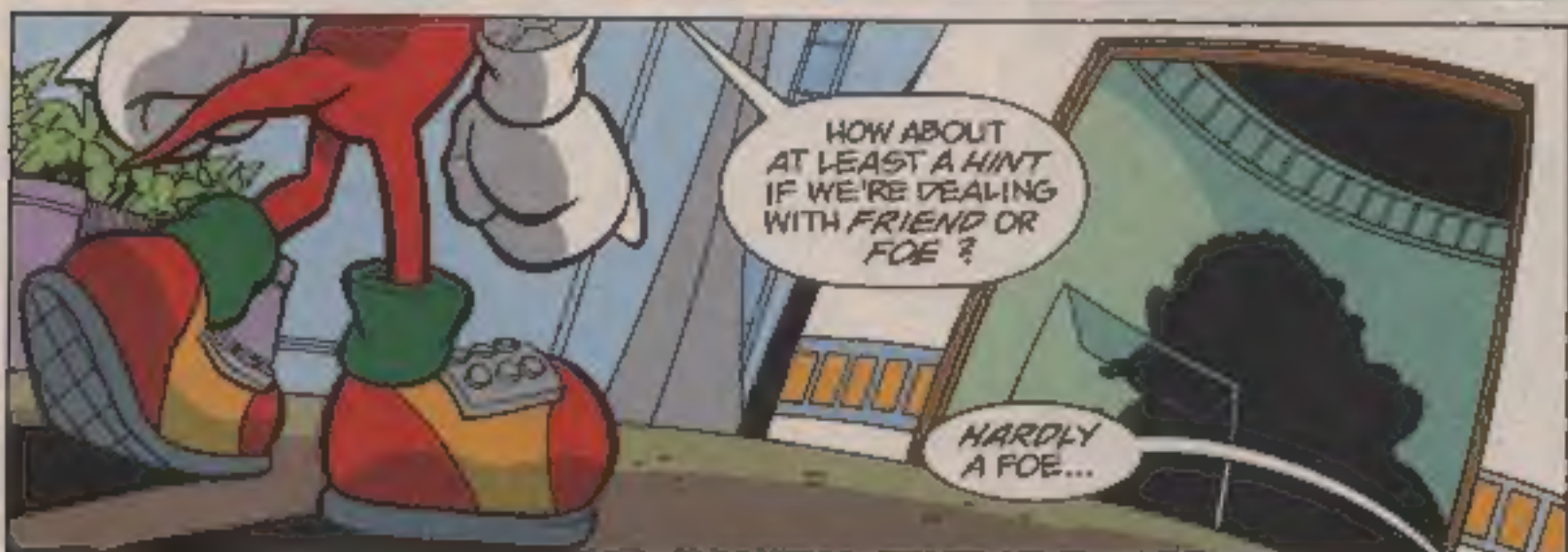
WHAT DO
YOU THINK THIS
IS ALL ABOUT,
ARCHY?

COMPLETELY
CLUELESS YOU
AIN'T!

MOI?

YEAH!
THE ORIGINAL
MISTER I-KNOW-
NOTHING!

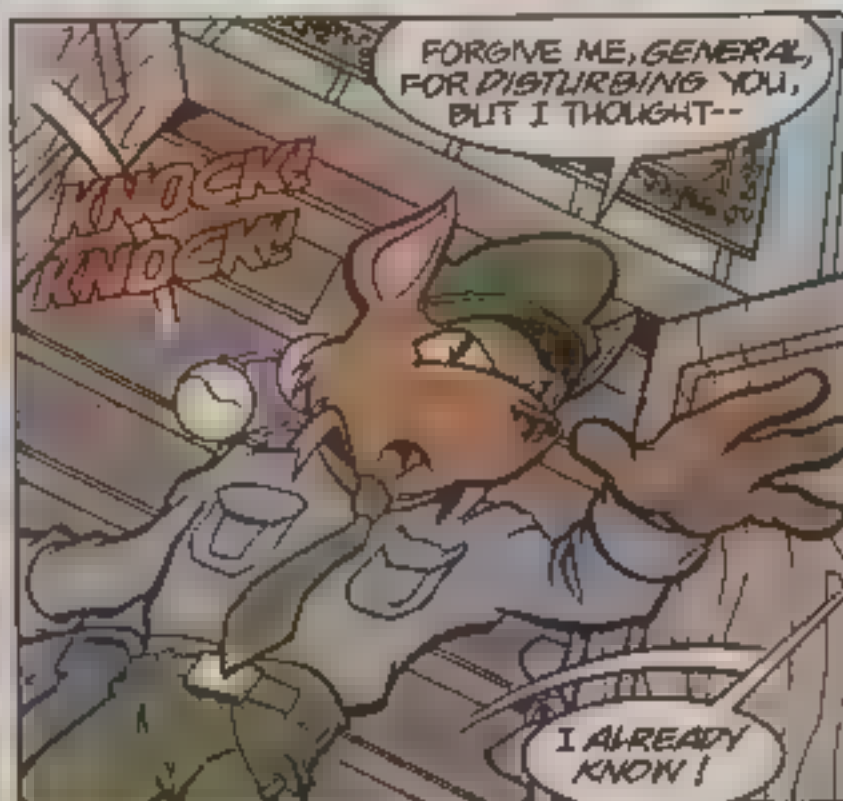
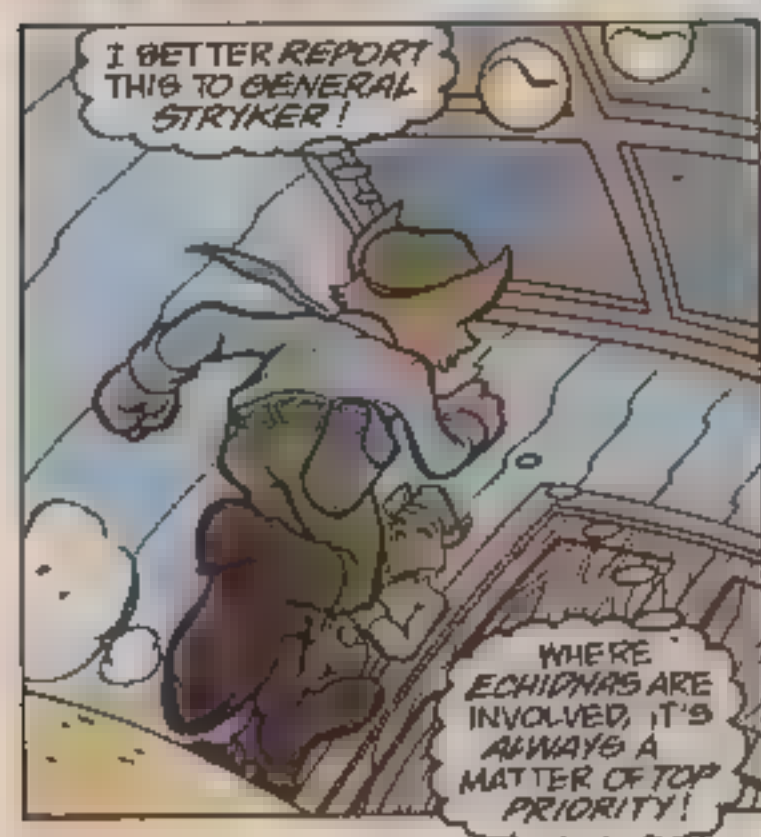
THIS IS MY
FIRST TIME HERE, SAME
AS YOU, KNUCKLES!



HOW ABOUT
AT LEAST A HINT
IF WE'RE DEALING
WITH FRIEND OR
FOE?

HARDLY
A FOE...

"...AND DEFINITELY
MORE
THAN A FRIEND!"





SIR?

YOU WISH TO
TELL ME ABOUT THOSE
ECHIDNAS WHO APPEAR, YET
ARE NOT THERE!

GEN STYKER

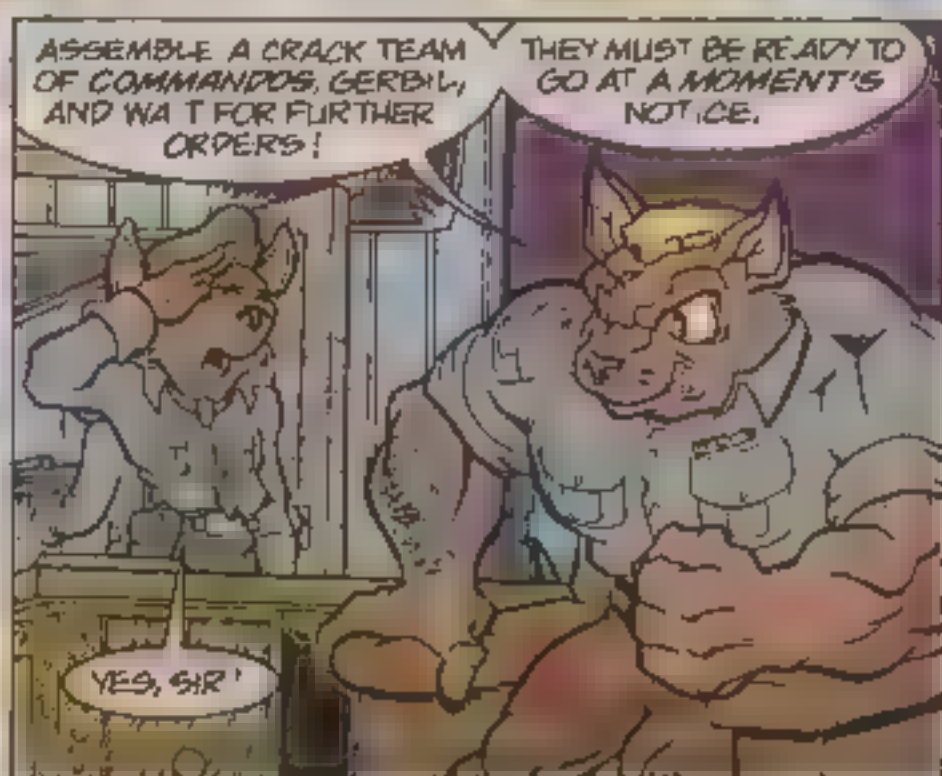
YOU THINK I
HAVEN'T SEEN? OR
FELT THE DISTURBANCES?



ONCE AGAIN, GERBIL, WE MUST
DEAL WITH THE CURSED ECHIDNAS
AND THEIR EXPERIMENTS!

THEY SEEM TO
THINK ONLY THEIR
AFFAIRS MATTER!

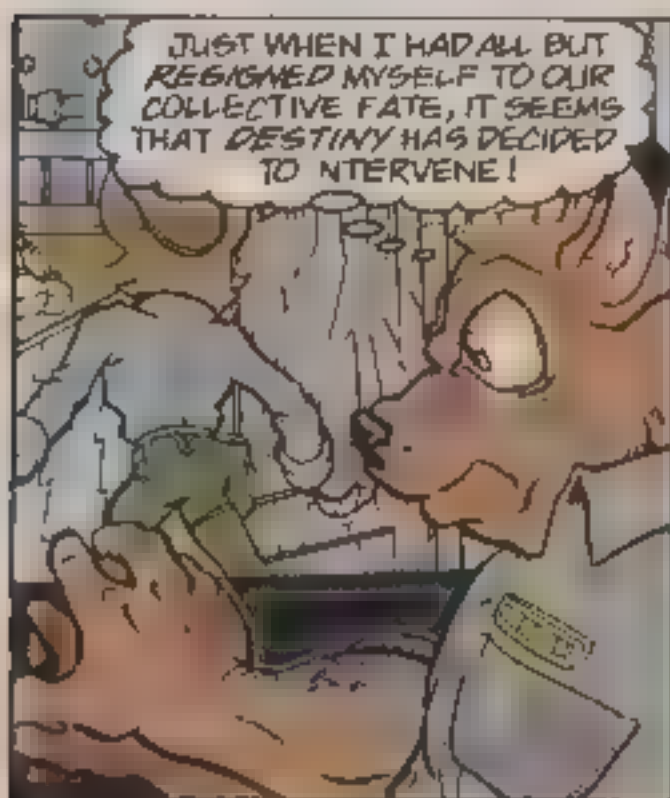
BUT NO LONGER!



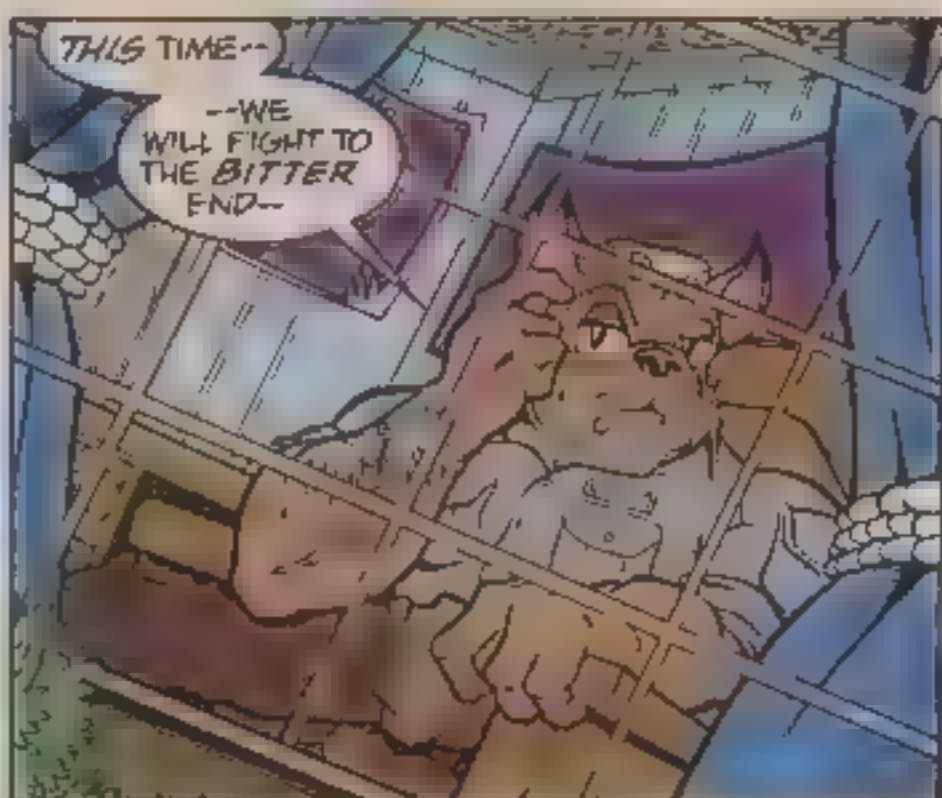
ASSEMBLE A CRACK TEAM
OF COMMANDOS, GERBIL,
AND WAIT FOR FURTHER
ORDERS!

THEY MUST BE READY TO
GO AT A MOMENT'S
NOTICE.

YES, SIR!

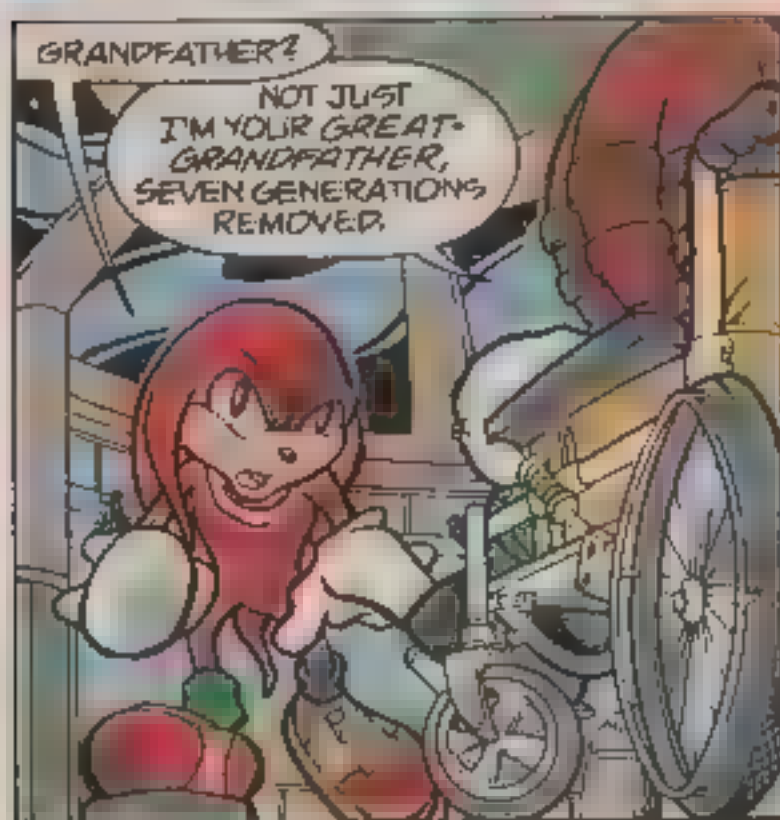
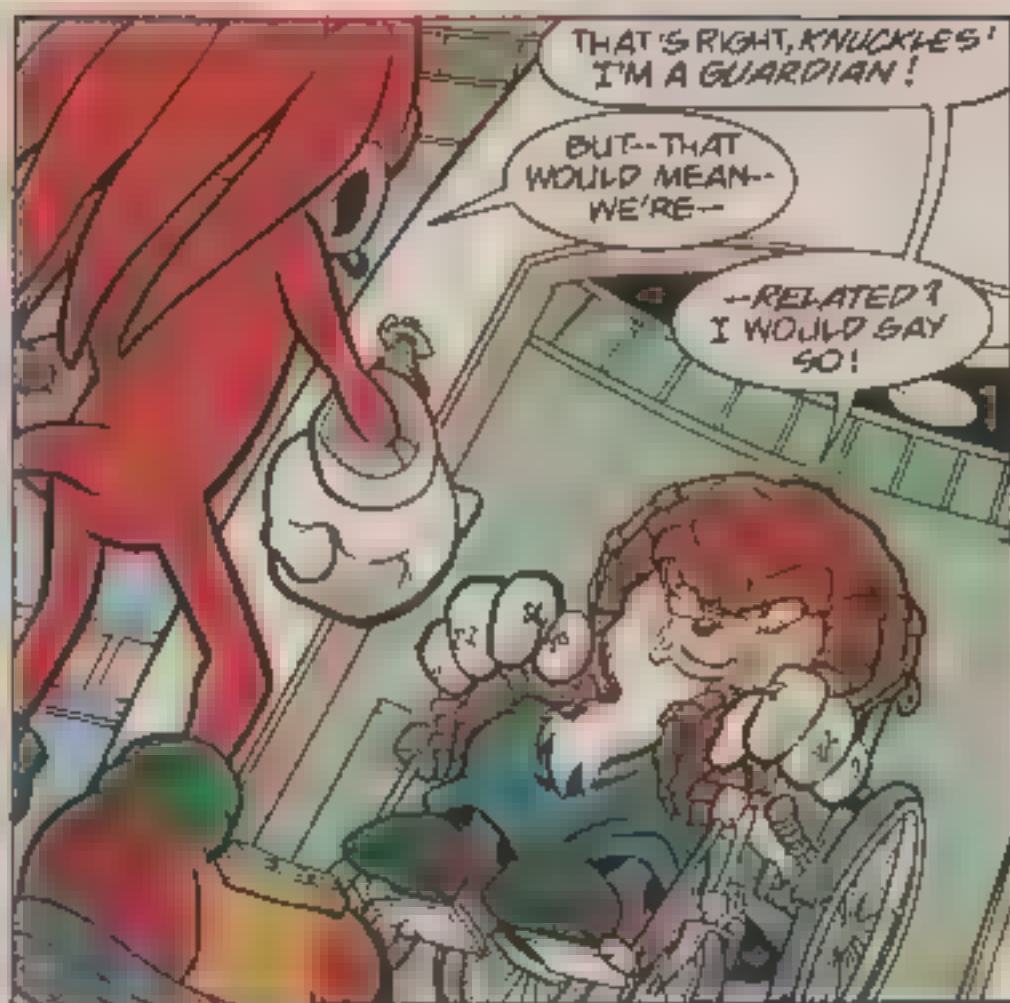


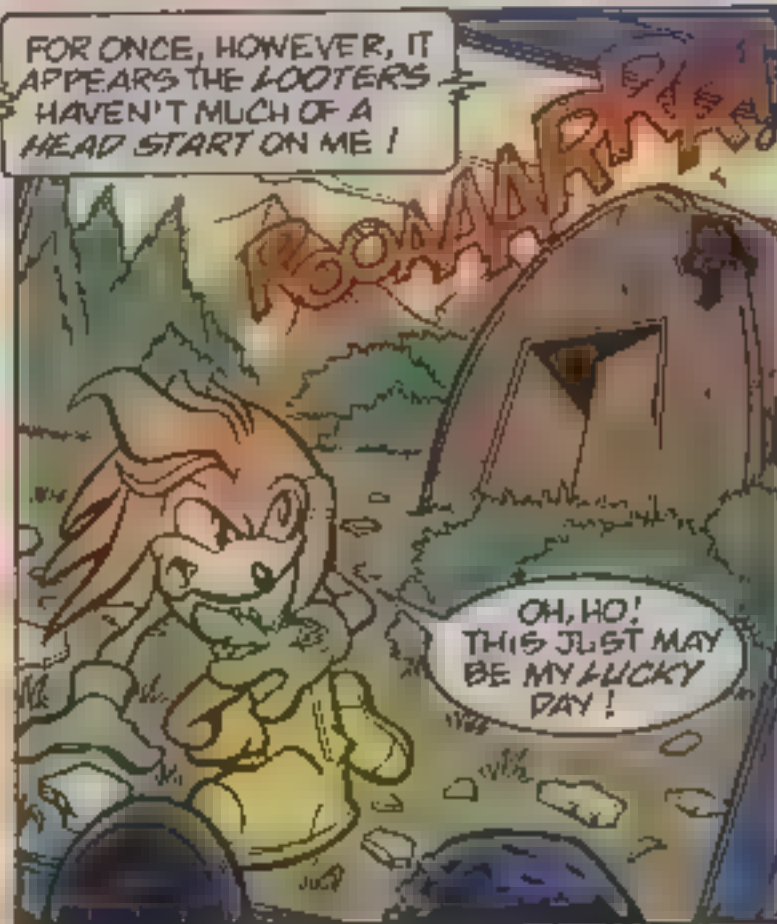
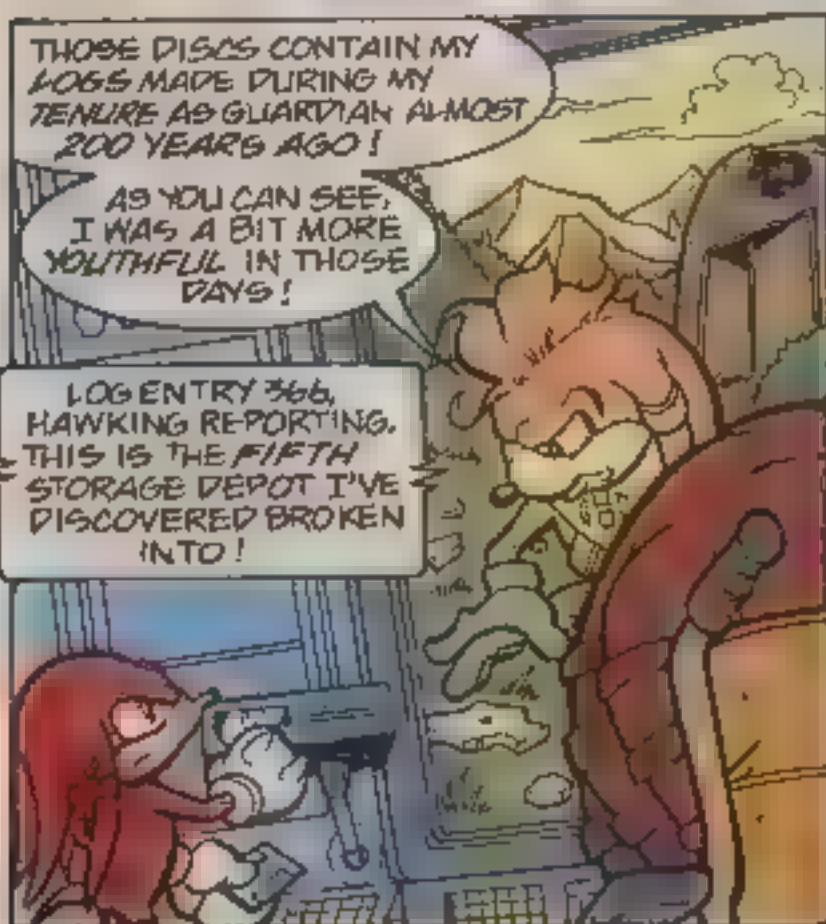
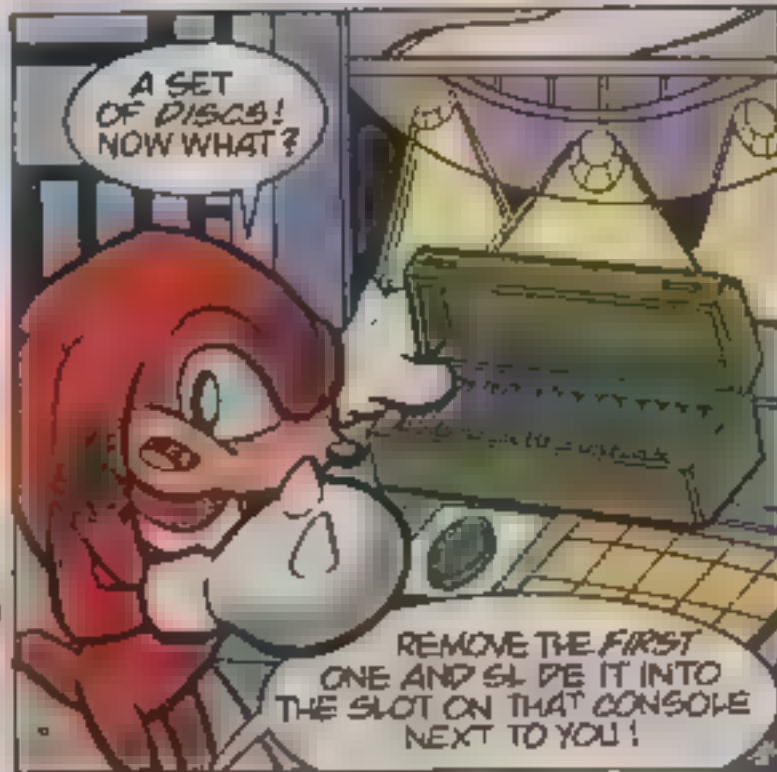
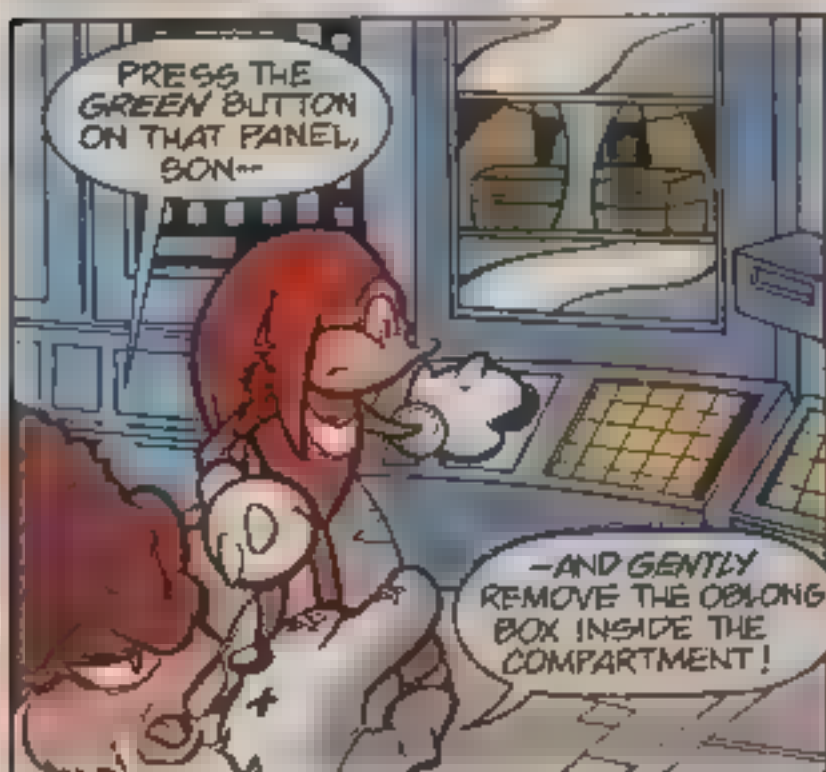
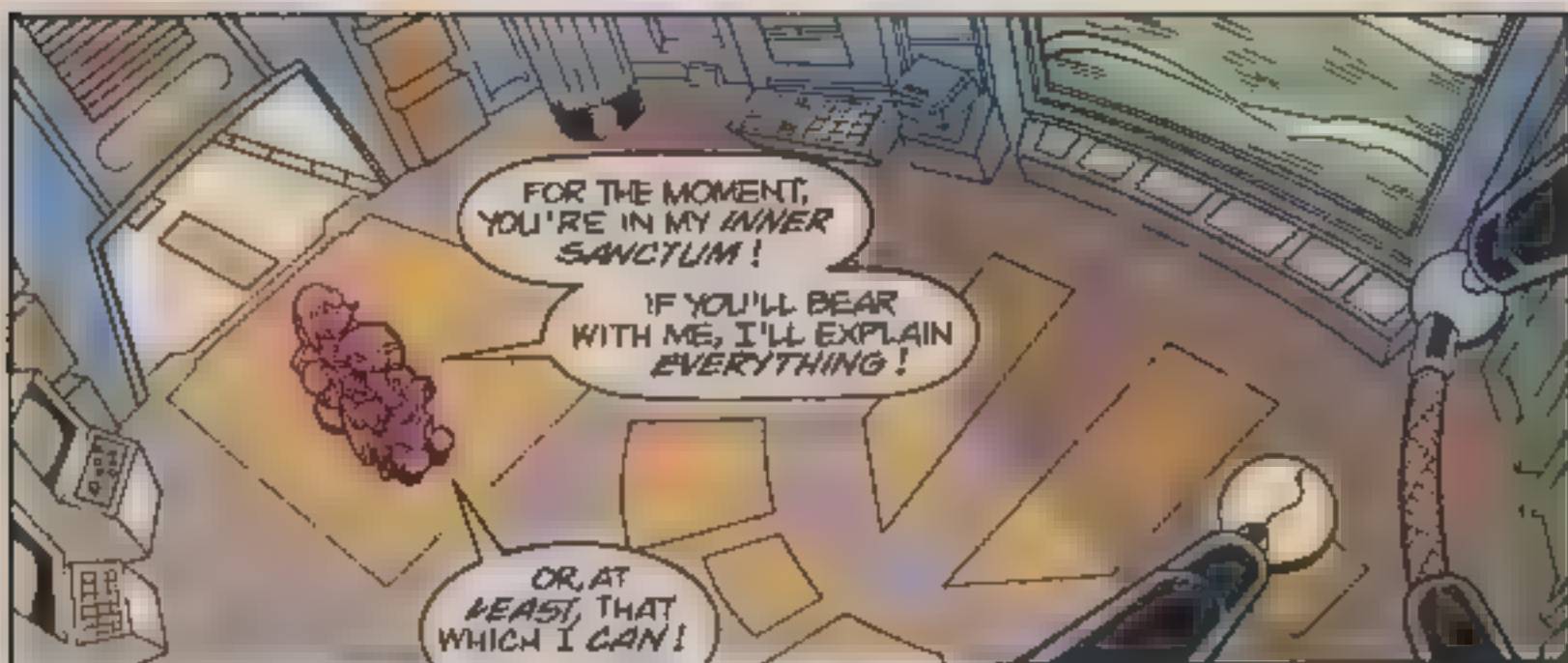
JUST WHEN I HAD ALL BUT
RESIGNED MYSELF TO OUR
COLLECTIVE FATE, IT SEEMS
THAT DESTINY HAS DECIDED
TO INTERVENE!



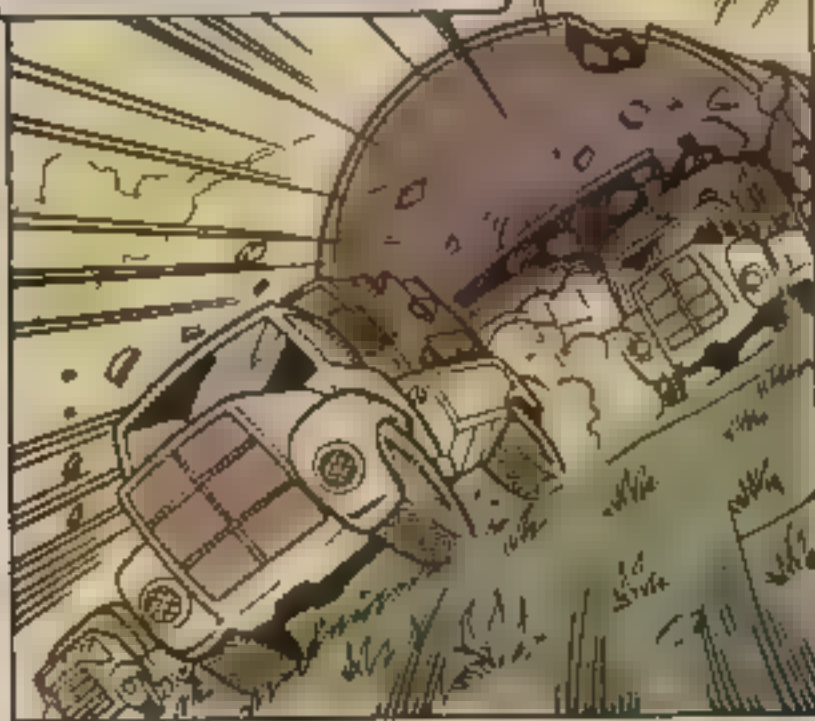
THIS TIME--

--WE
WILL FIGHT TO
THE BITTER
END--

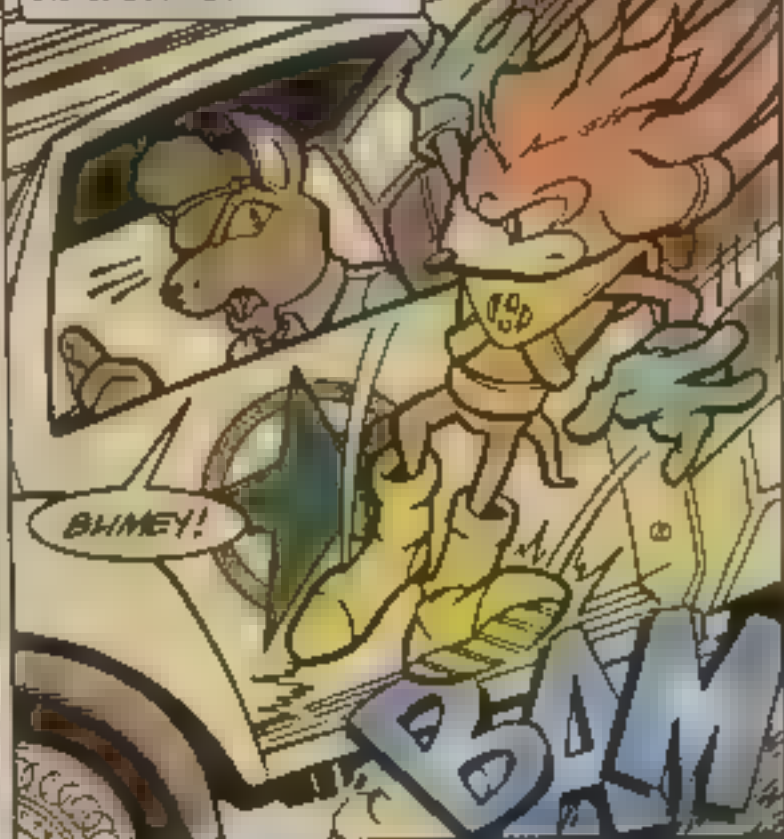




WITH A MOMENTS OF TAKING
FLIGHT, I HAVE THE
WOOTERS IN VISUAL RANGE!
SINCE THERE IS NO ATTEMPT
AT EVASIVE ACTION,
I MUST ASSUME I HAVE THE
ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!



SINCE IT'D BE A
SHAME NOT TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF IT...



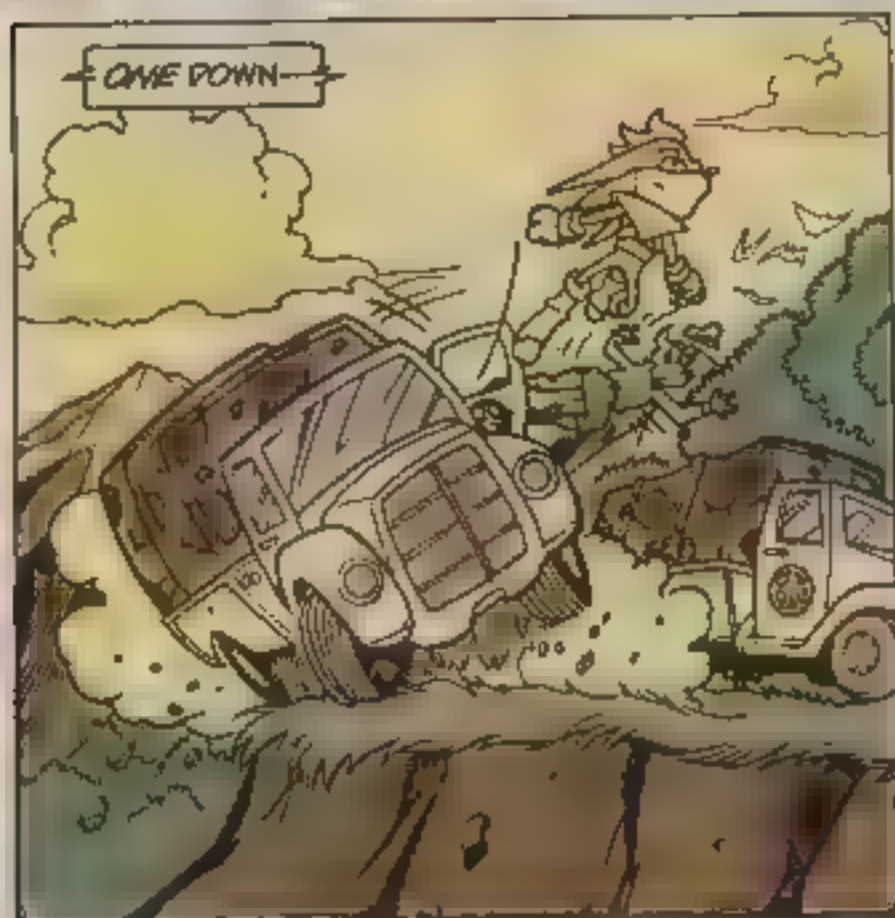
I JUST HATE BACKSEAT
DRIVERS, DON'T YOU?

OWW!

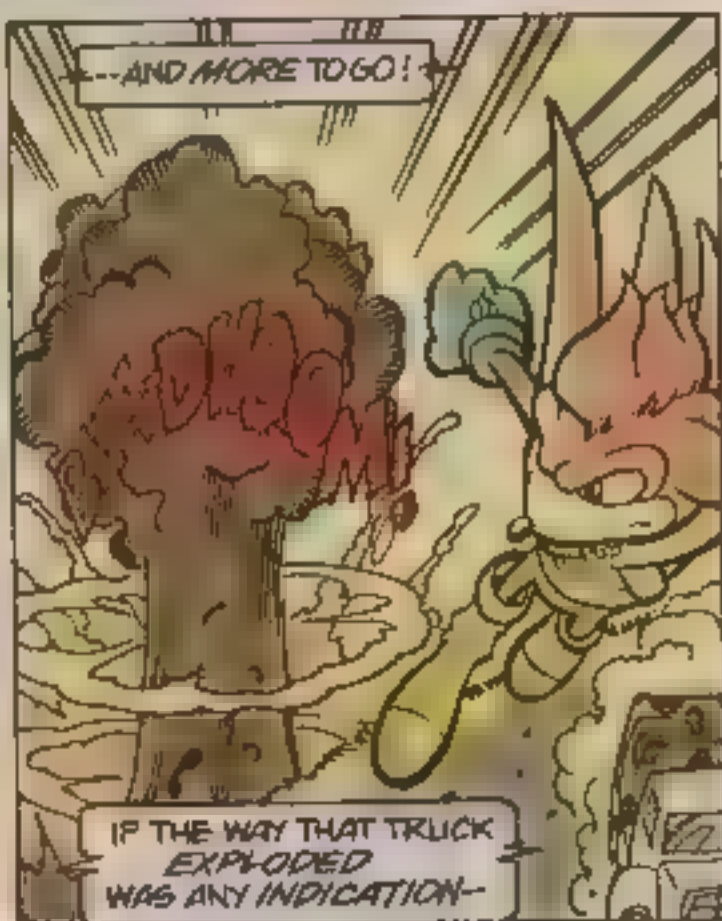
ME SNIFFER!

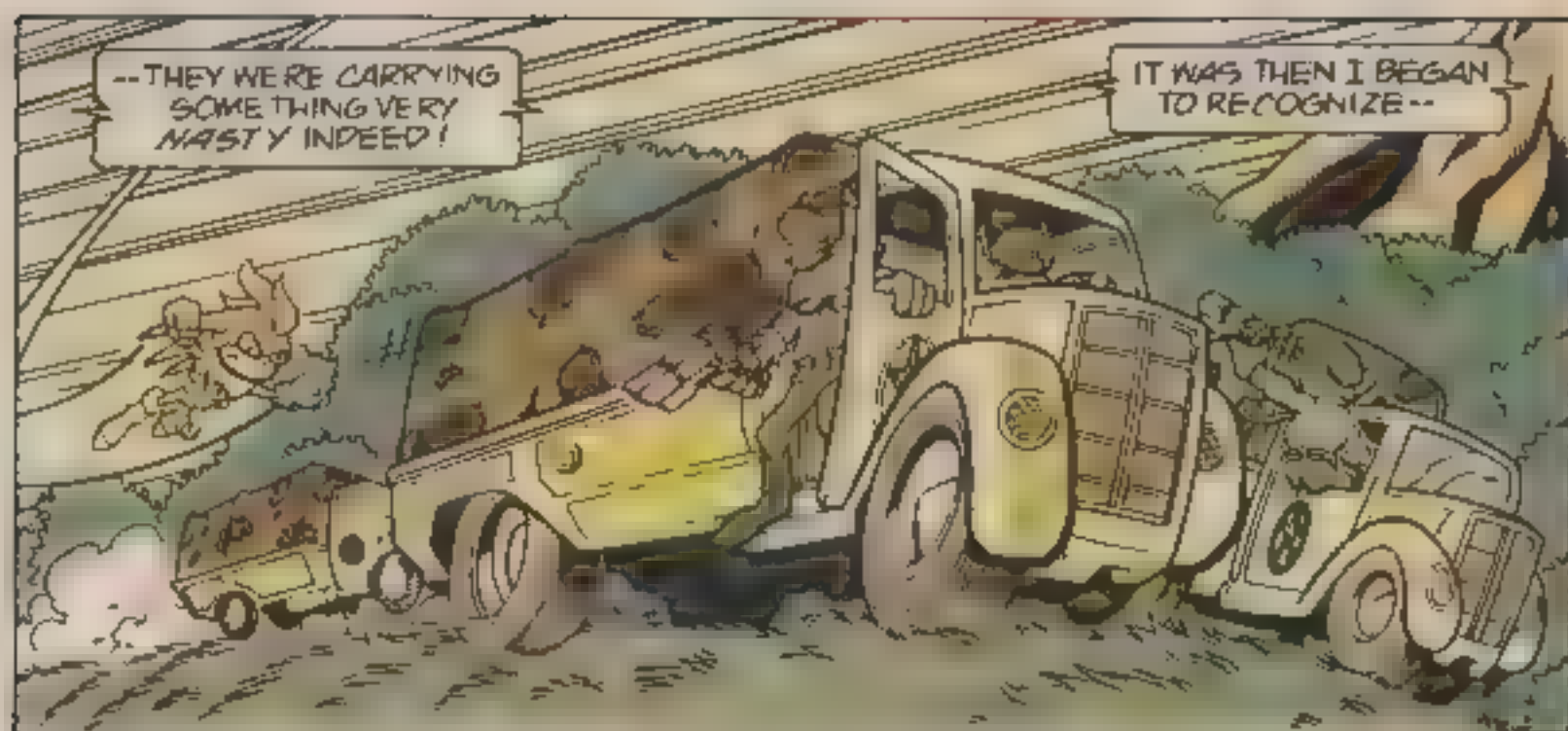


ONE DOWN



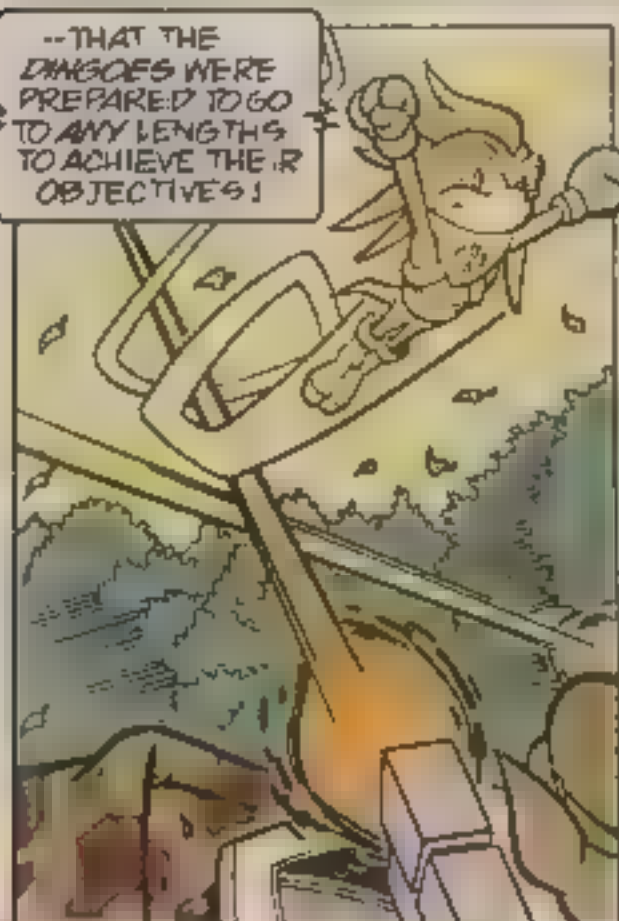
AND MORE TO GO!



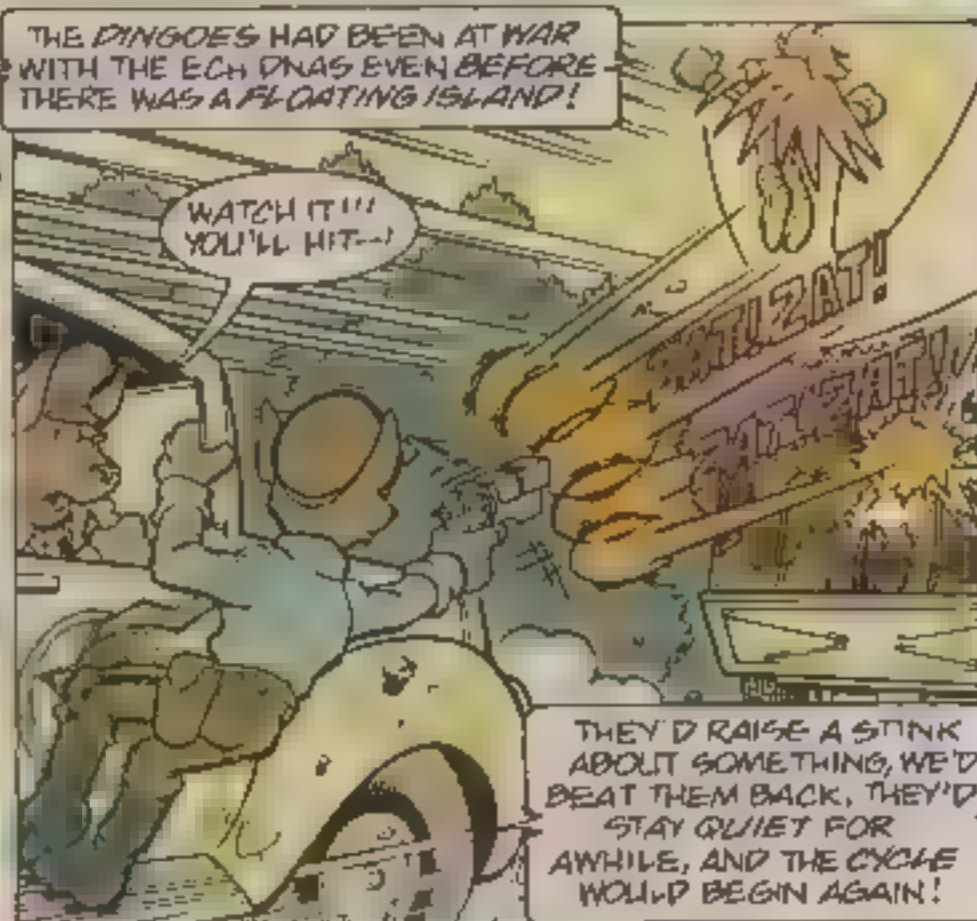


--THEY WERE CARRYING
SOMETHING VERY
NASTY INDEED!

IT WAS THEN I BEGAN
TO RECOGNIZE--



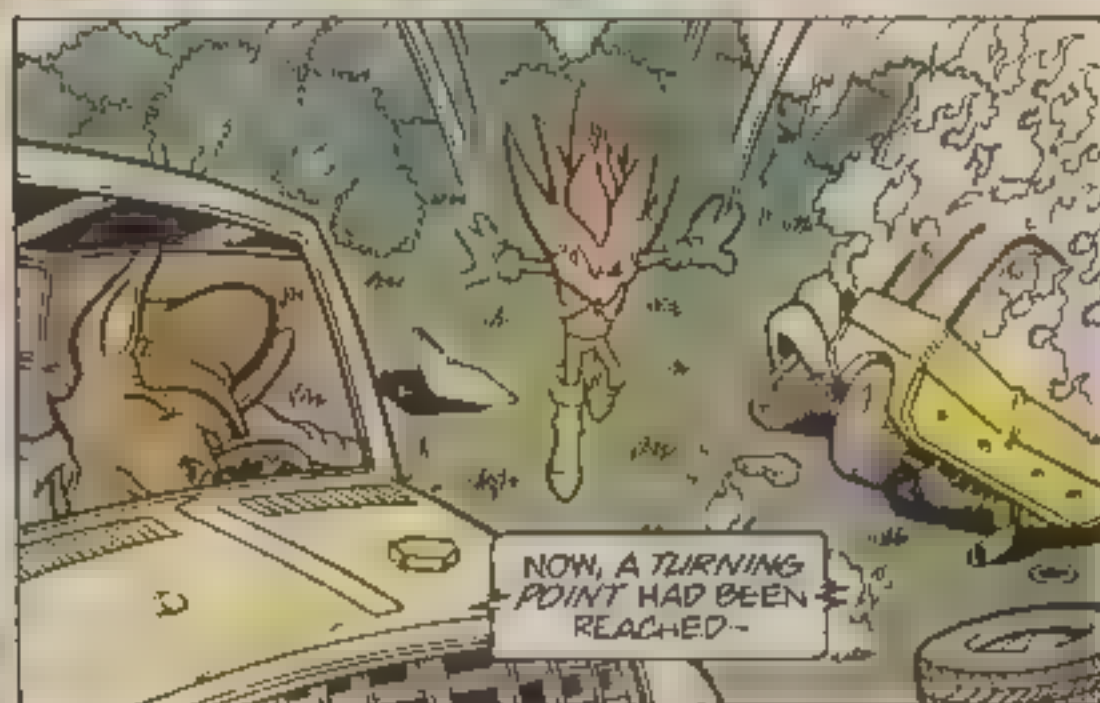
--THAT THE
DINGOES WERE
PREPARED TO GO
TO ANY LENGTHS
TO ACHIEVE THEIR
OBJECTIVES!



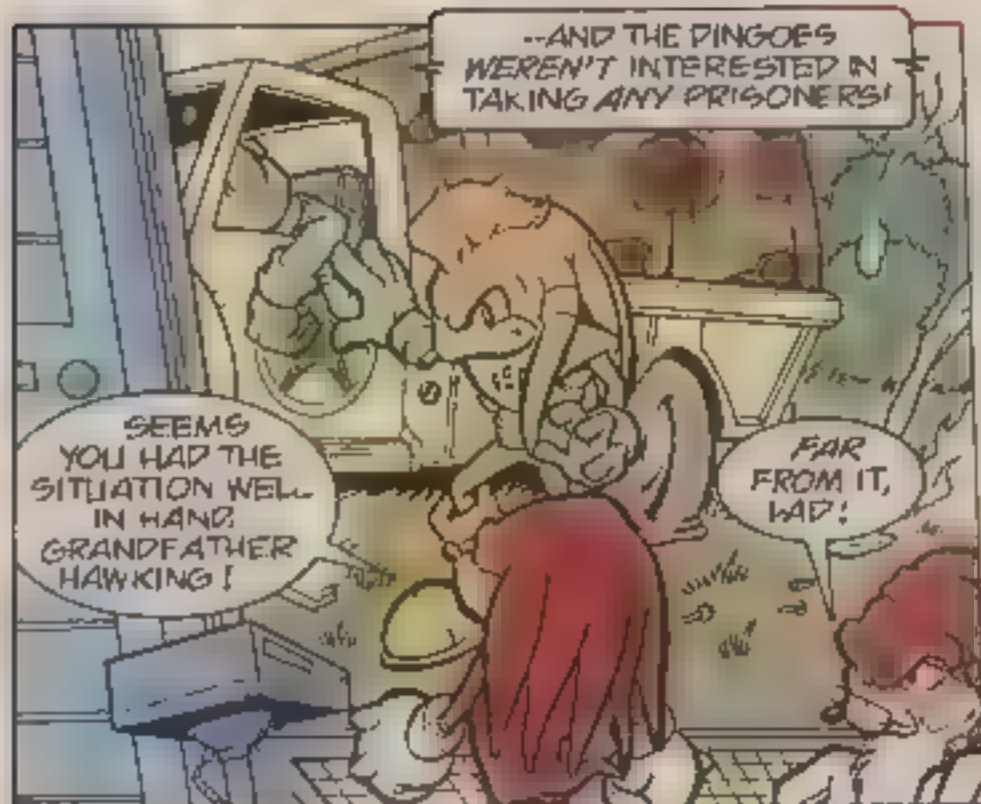
THE DINGOES HAD BEEN AT WAR
WITH THE ECH DNAS EVEN BEFORE
THERE WAS A FLOATING ISLAND!

WATCH IT!!!
YOU'LL HIT--!

THEY'D RAISE A STINK
ABOUT SOMETHING, WE'D
BEAT THEM BACK, THEY'D
STAY QUIET FOR
AWHILE, AND THE CYCLE
WOULD BEGIN AGAIN!



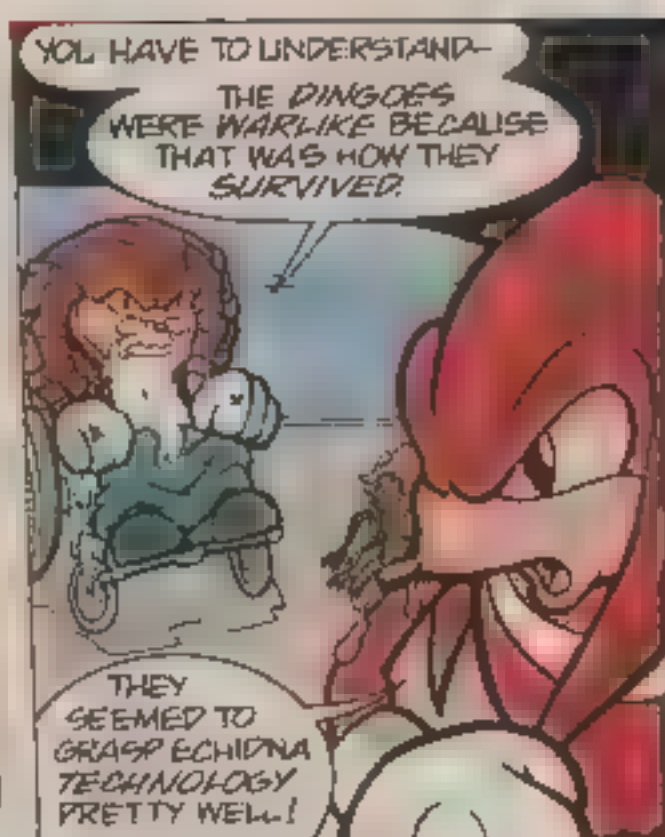
NOW, A TURNING
POINT HAD BEEN
REACHED--



--AND THE DINGOES
WEREN'T INTERESTED IN
TAKING ANY PRISONERS!

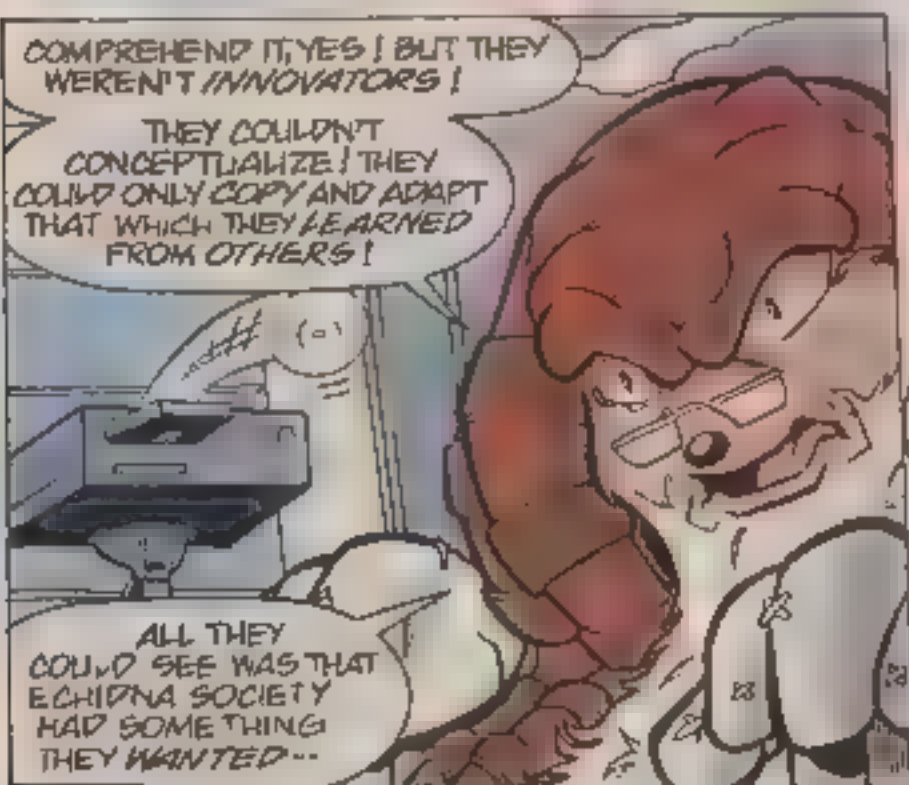
SEEMS
YOU HAD THE
SITUATION WELL
IN HAND,
GRANDFATHER
HAWKING!

FAR
FROM IT,
WAD!



YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND--
THE DINGOES
WERE WARLIKE BECAUSE
THAT WAS HOW THEY
SURVIVED.

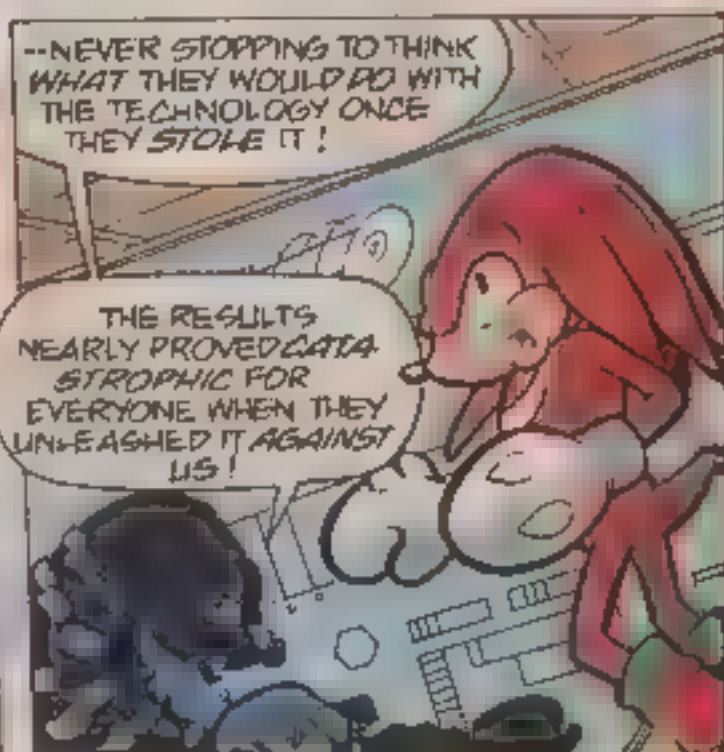
THEY
SEEMED TO
GRASP ECHIDNA
TECHNOLOGY
PRETTY WELL!



COMPREHEND IT, YES! BUT THEY
WEREN'T INNOVATORS!

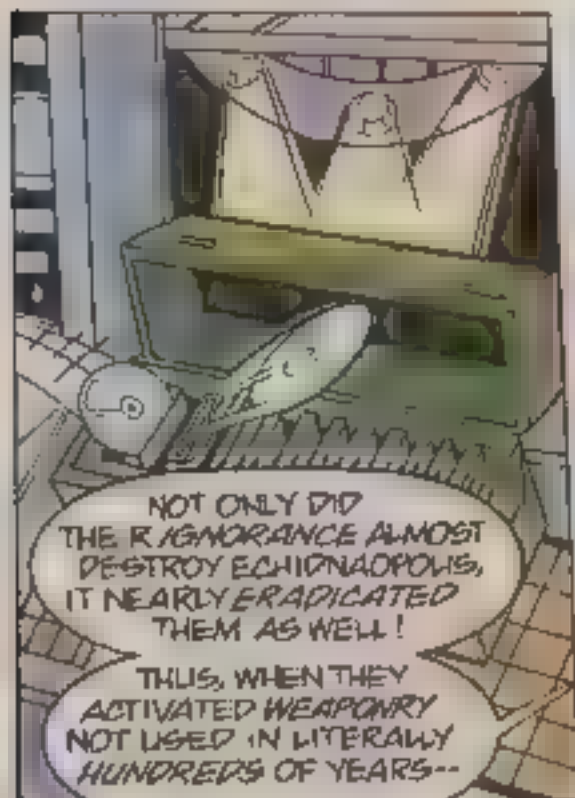
THEY COULDN'T
CONCEPTUALIZE! THEY
COULD ONLY COPY AND ADAPT
THAT WHICH THEY LEARNED
FROM OTHERS!

ALL THEY
COULD SEE WAS THAT
ECHIDNA SOCIETY
HAD SOMETHING
THEY WANTED--



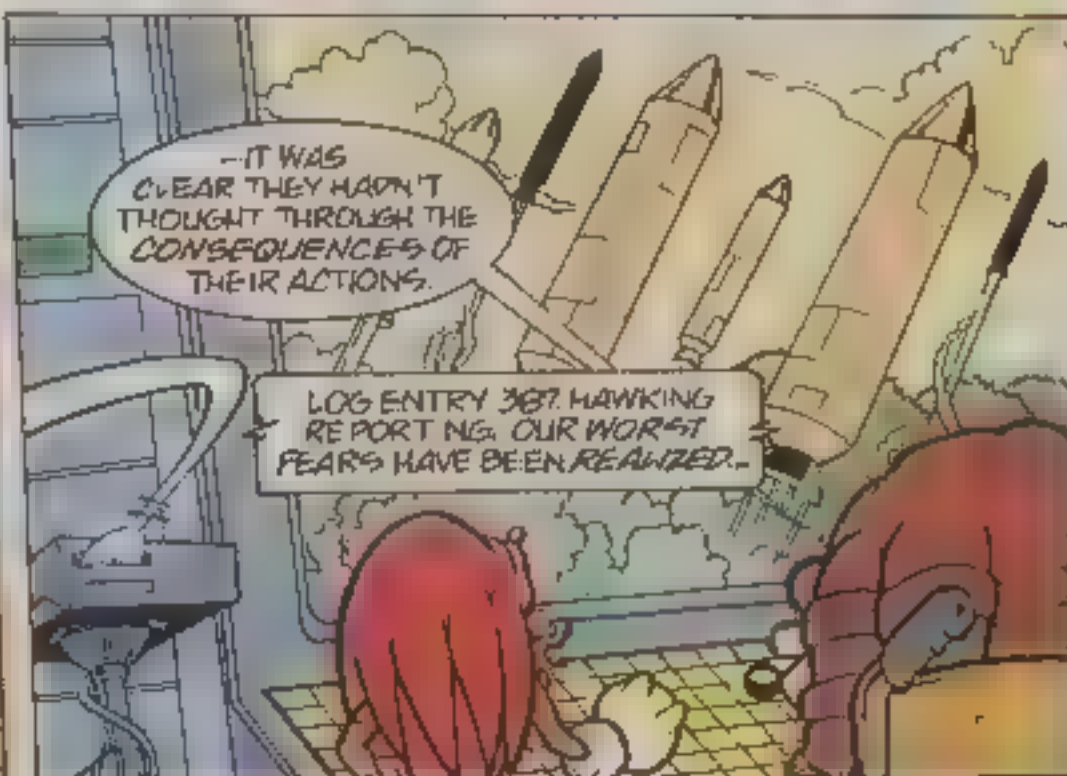
--NEVER STOPPING TO THINK
WHAT THEY WOULD DO WITH
THE TECHNOLOGY ONCE
THEY STOLE IT!

THE RESULTS
NEARLY PROVED DATA
STROPHIC FOR
EVERYONE WHEN THEY
UNLEASHED IT AGAINST
US!



NOT ONLY DID
THE R IGNORANCE ALMOST
DESTROY ECHIDNAPOUS,
IT NEARLY ERADICATED
THEM AS WELL!

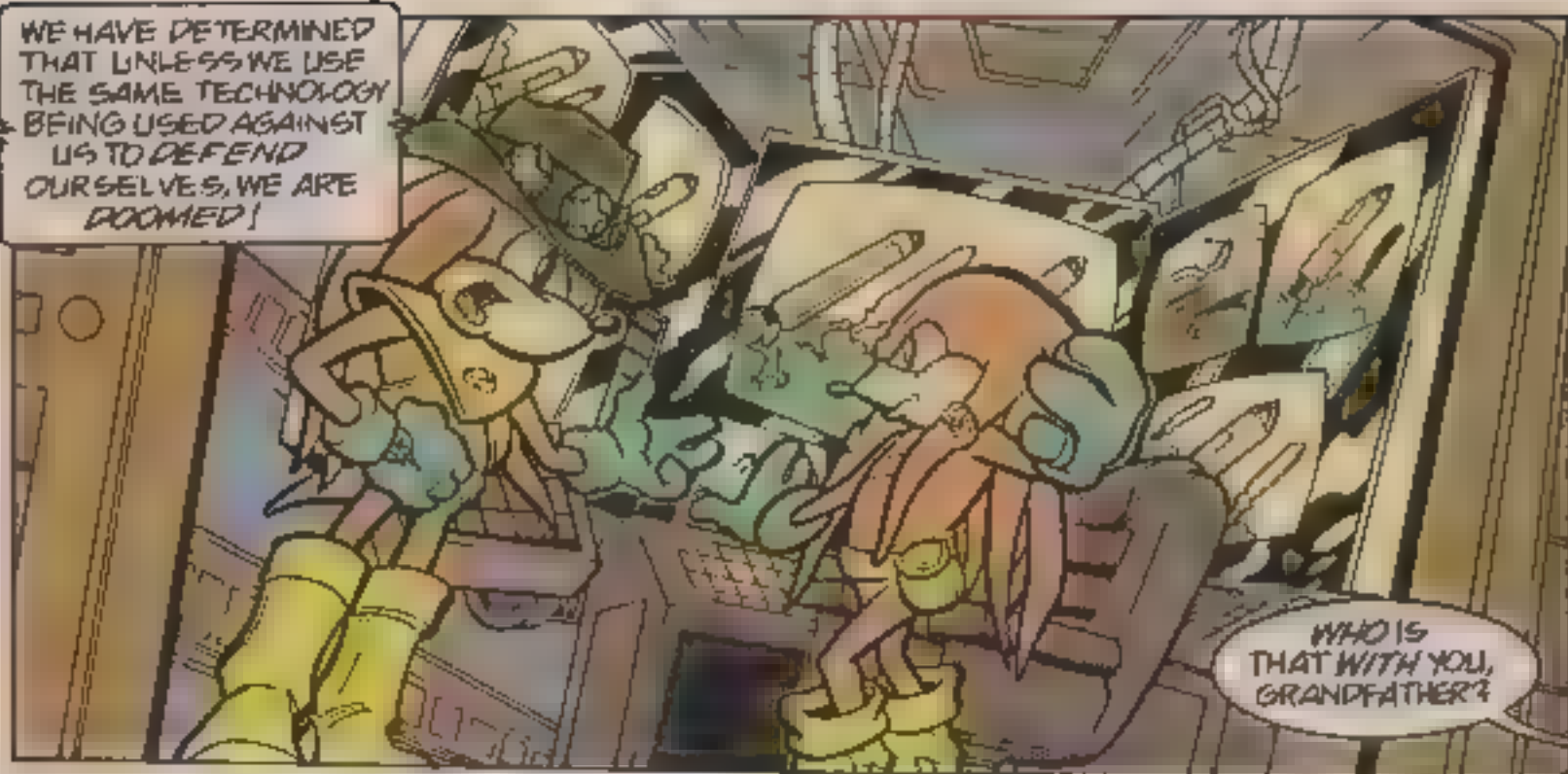
THUS, WHEN THEY
ACTIVATED WEAPONRY
NOT USED IN LITERALLY
HUNDREDS OF YEARS--



--IT WAS
CLEAR THEY HADN'T
THOUGHT THROUGH THE
CONSEQUENCES OF
THEIR ACTIONS.

LOG ENTRY 387: HAWKING
REPORTING OUR WORST
FEARS HAVE BEEN REALIZED.

WE HAVE DETERMINED
THAT UNLESS WE USE
THE SAME TECHNOLOGY
BEING USED AGAINST
US TO DEFEND
OURSELVES, WE ARE
DOOMED!



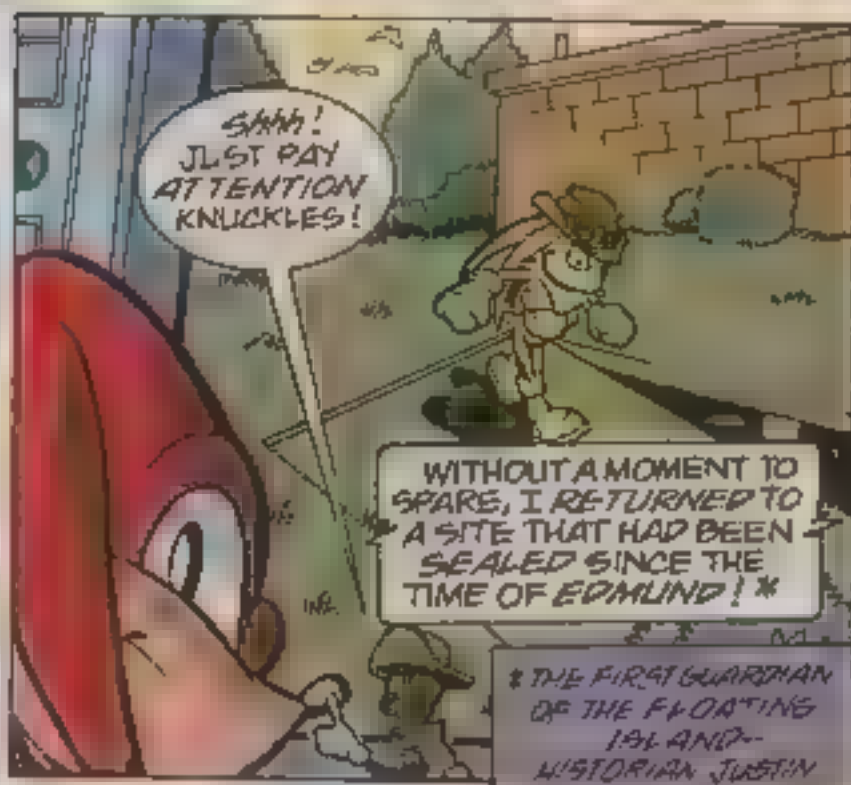
WHO IS
THAT WITH YOU,
GRANDFATHER?

THAT'S NOT
IMPORTANT!

HE'S
ANOTHER
GUARDIAN,
AIN'T HE?



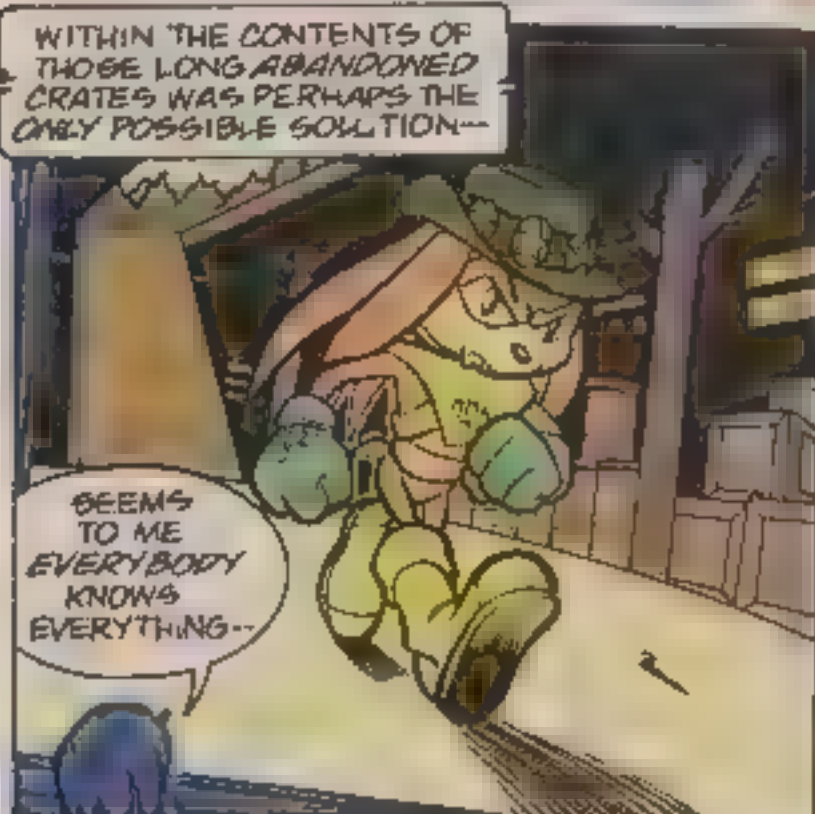
SHHH!
JUST PAY
ATTENTION
KNUCKLES!



WITHOUT A MOMENT TO
SPARE, I RETURNED TO
A SITE THAT HAD BEEN
SEALED SINCE THE
TIME OF EDMUND! *

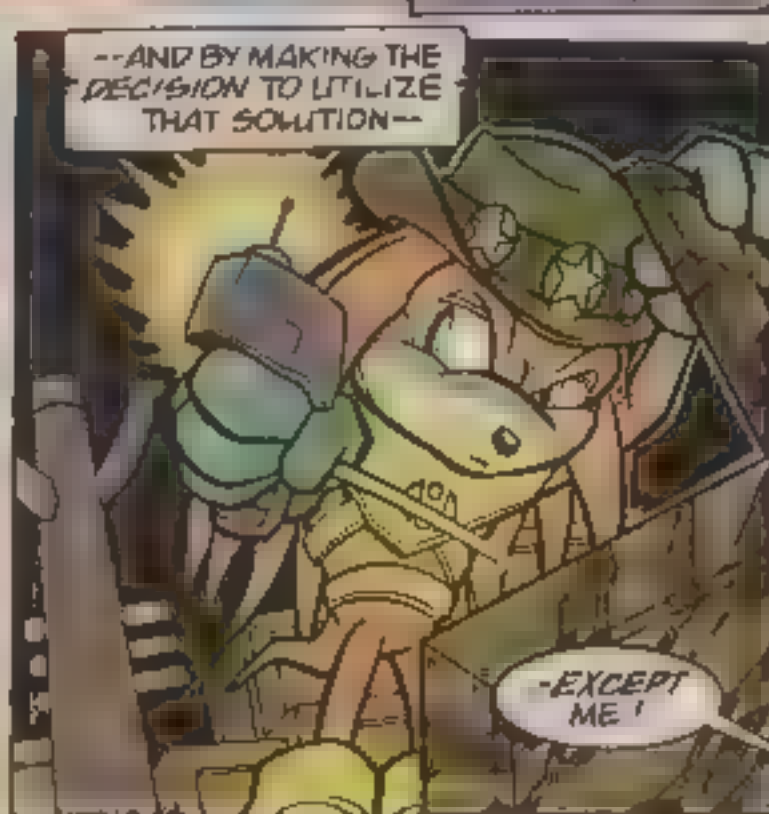
* THE FIRST GUARDIAN
OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND--
HISTORIAN JUSTIN

WITHIN THE CONTENTS OF
THOSE LONG ABANDONED
CRATES WAS PERHAPS THE
ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION--



SEEMS
TO ME
EVERYBODY
KNOWS
EVERYTHING--

--AND BY MAKING THE
DECISION TO UTILIZE
THAT SOLUTION--



-EXCEPT
ME!

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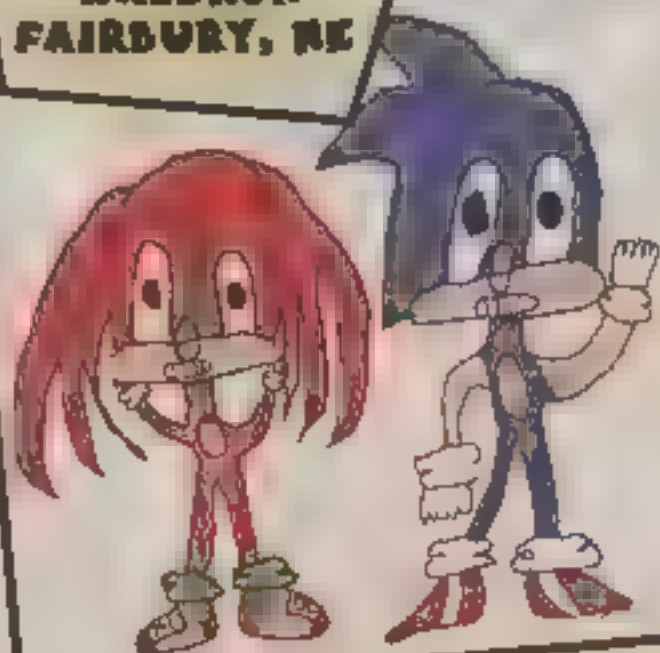
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FAIRBURY, NE**



**JOSHUA
DALES
WARREN, MI
Age 8**

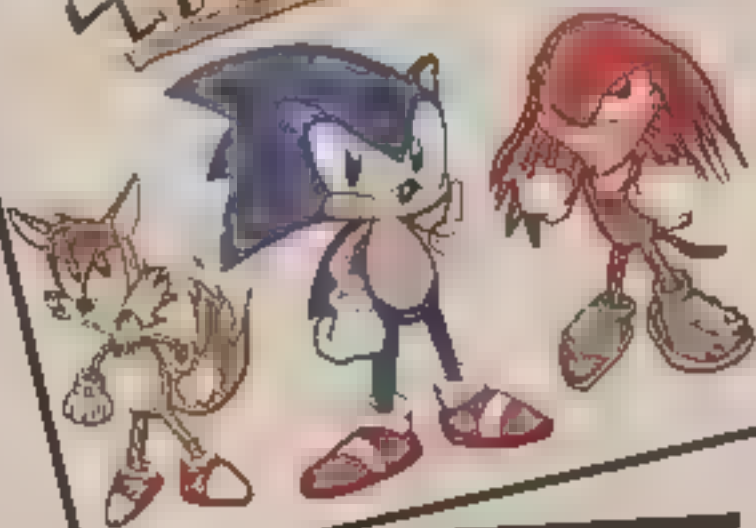


STEPPENWOLF 🏆



**BRANDON BLEVINS
ROANOKE, VA
Age 9**

MEET WITH US AND JOIN A WINNER FOR
TRIPLE TROUBLE!



**BRIAN
MEYER
ODERTON,
MD**

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PRINTED PLEASE SEND A BLACK &
WHITE COPY OF YOUR ART
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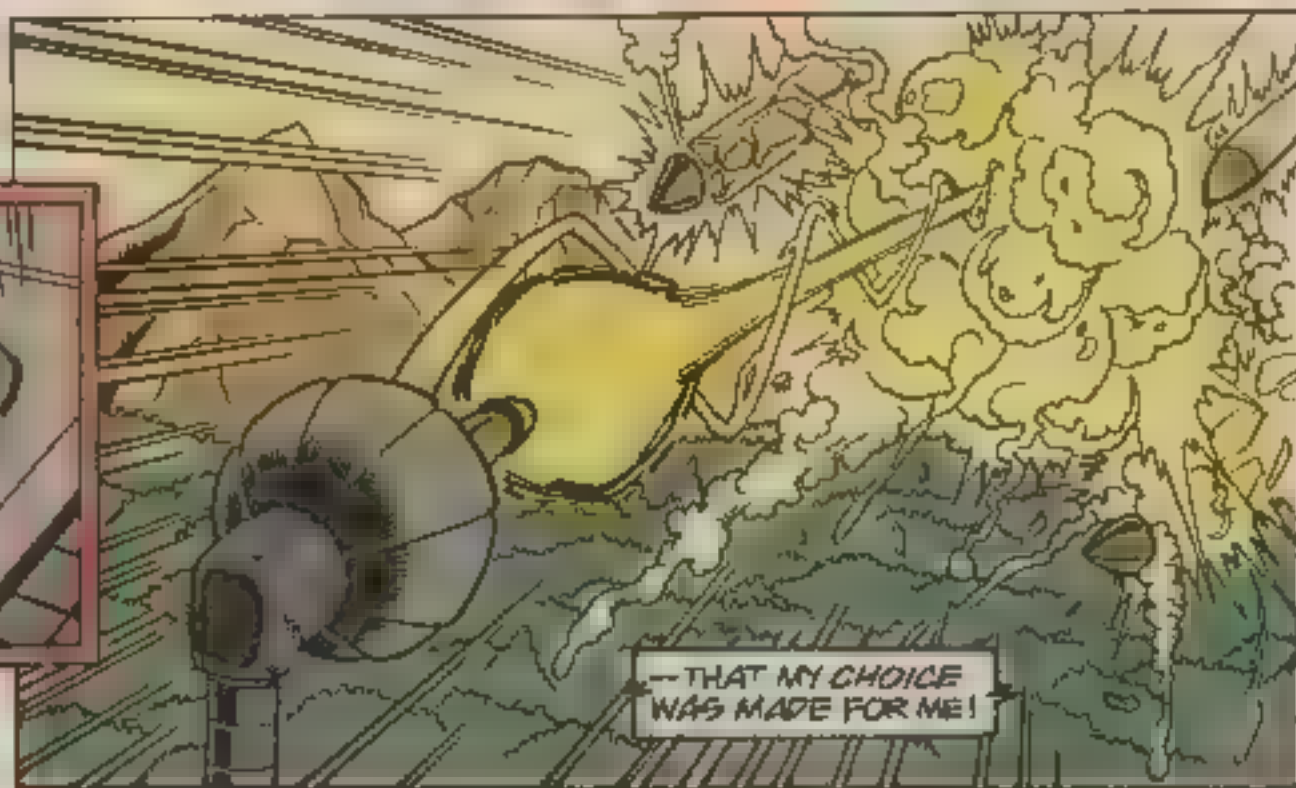
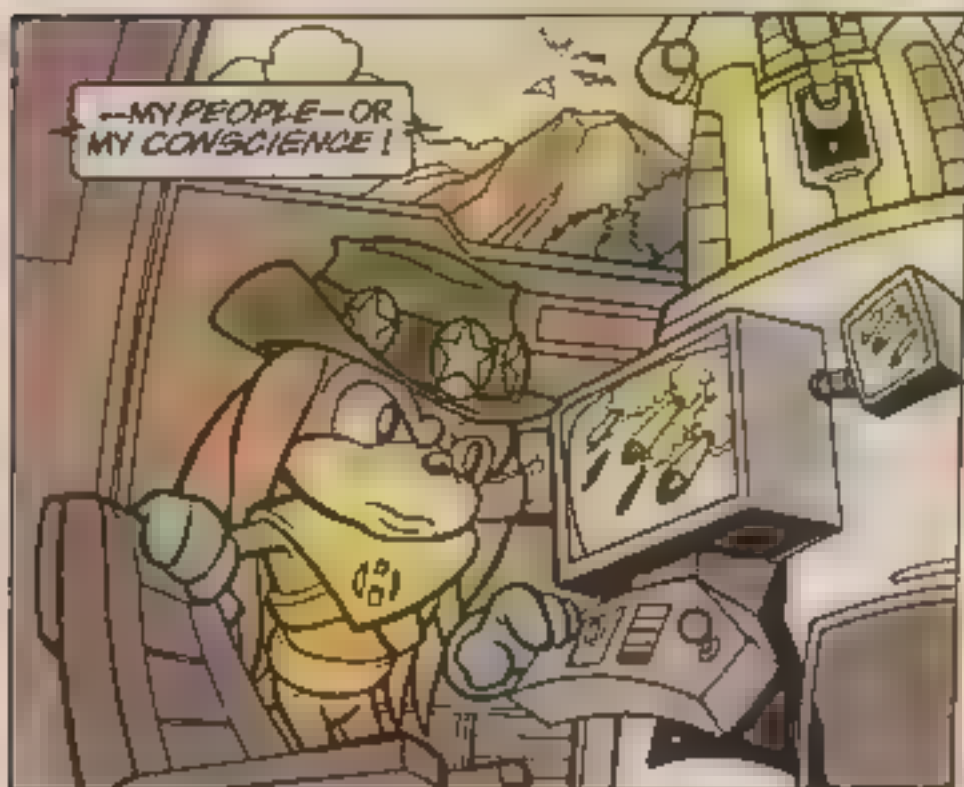
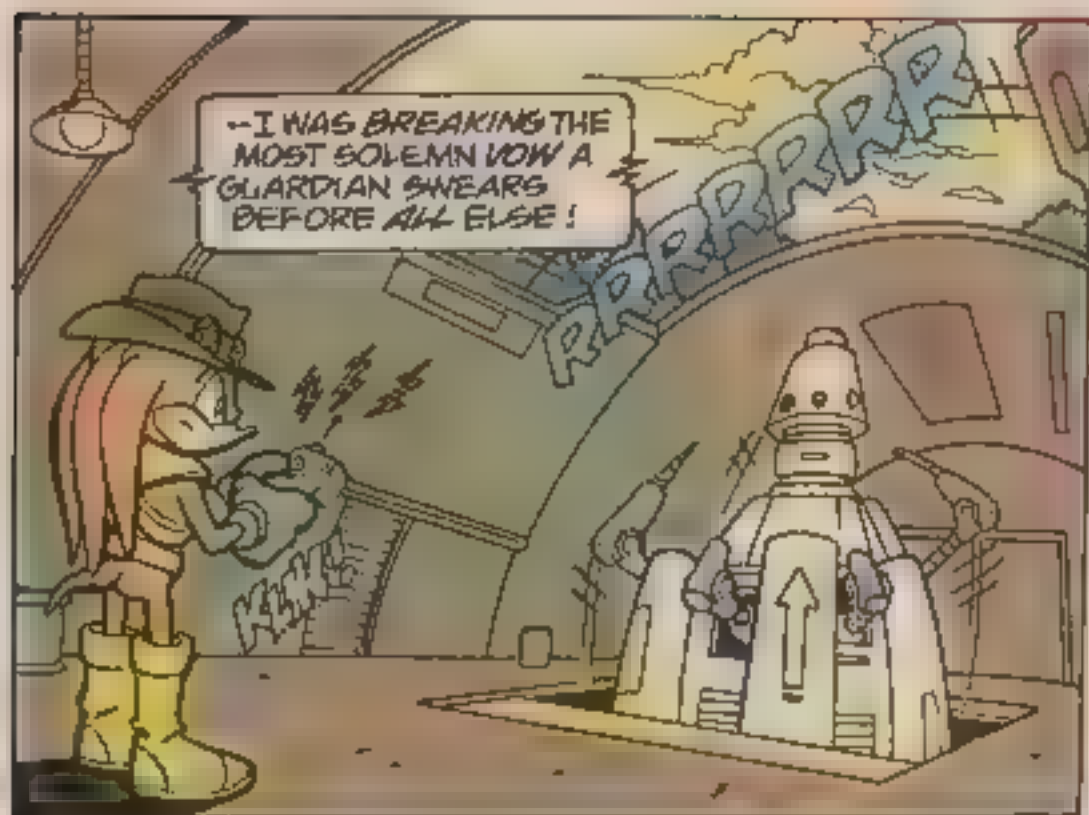
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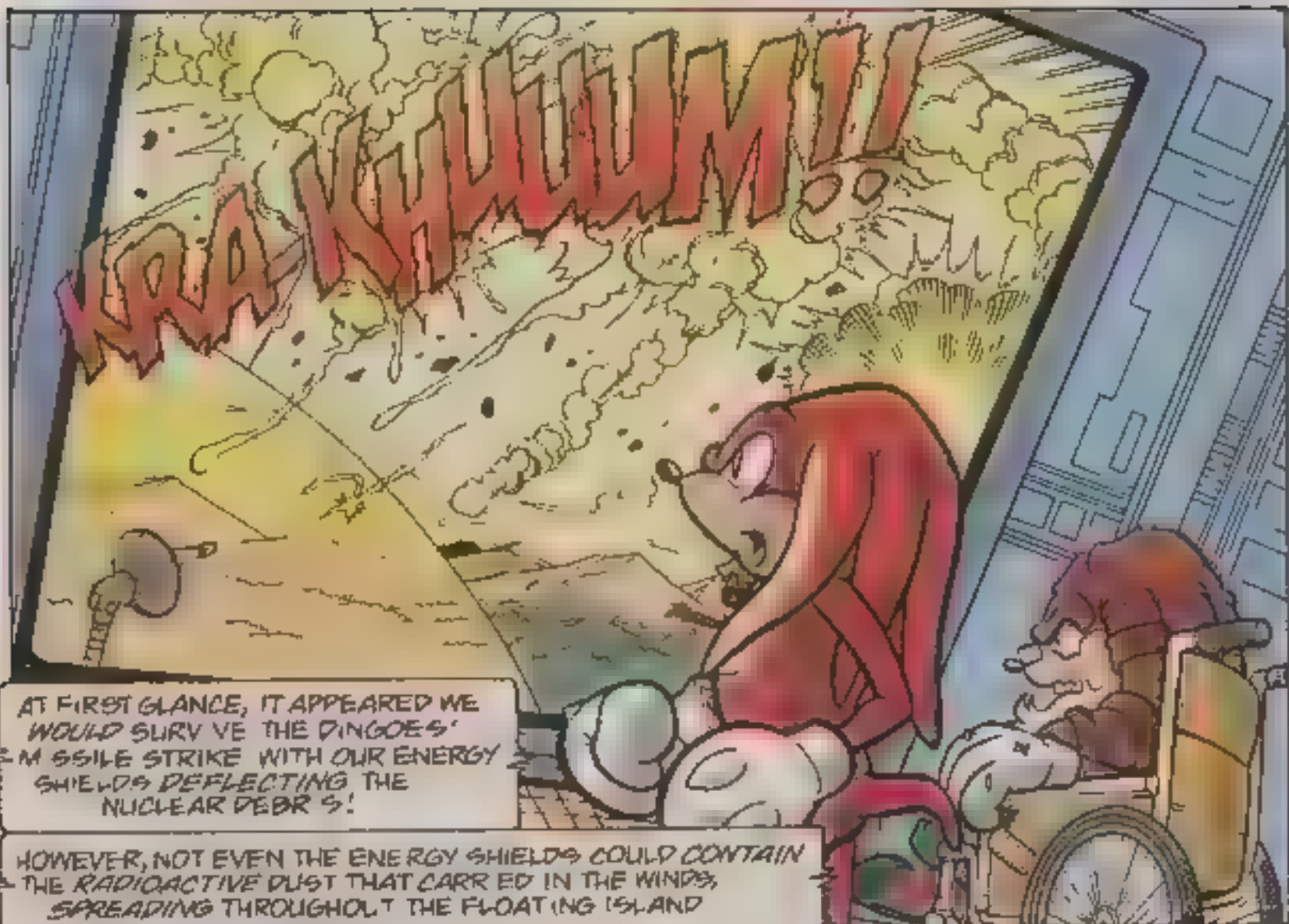
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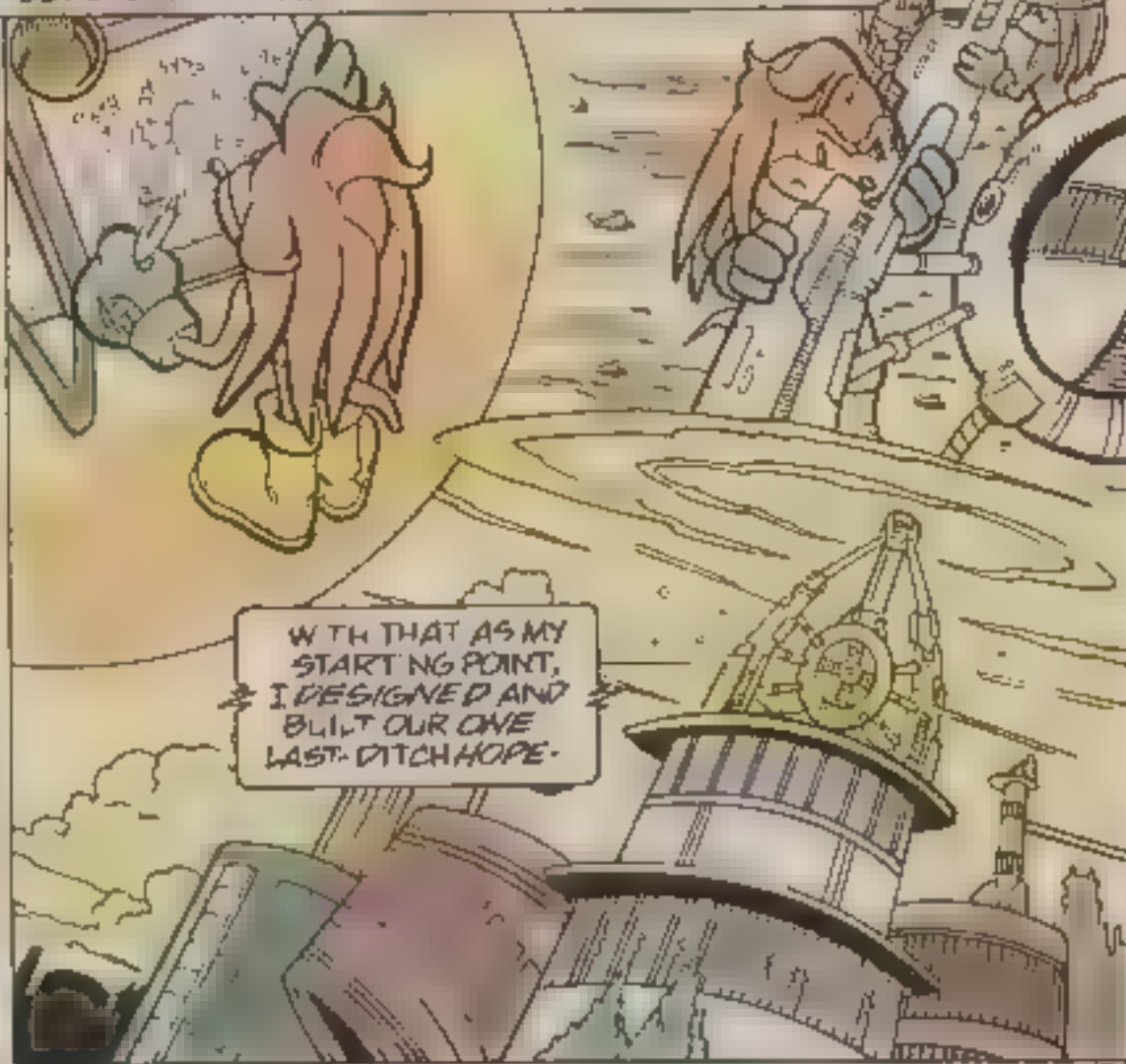
AT FIRST GLANCE, IT APPEARED WE WOULD SURVIVE THE DINGOES' MISSILE STRIKE WITH OUR ENERGY SHIELDS DEFLECTING THE NUCLEAR DEBRIS!

HOWEVER, NOT EVEN THE ENERGY SHIELDS COULD CONTAIN THE RADIOACTIVE DUST THAT CARRIED IN THE WINDS, SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE FLOATING ISLAND

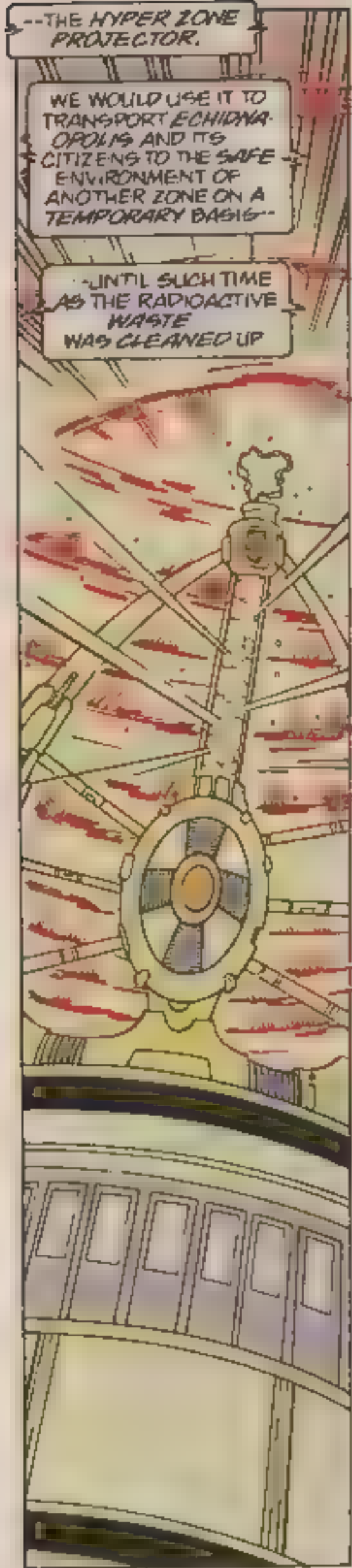


SINCE THE ENTIRE ISLAND STOOD TO BE AFFECTED, EVACUATION WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

HOWEVER, I DISCOVERED A POSSIBLE OPTION AMONG DIMITRI'S PAPERS. HE THEORIZED THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER ZONES, WHICH OCCUPIED THE SAME SPACE, BUT OPERATING AT DIFFERENT VIBRATIONAL SPEEDS.



WITH THAT AS MY STARTING POINT, I DESIGNED AND BUILT OUR ONE LAST-DITCH HOPE.



--THE HYPER ZONE PROJECTOR.

WE WOULD USE IT TO TRANSPORT ECHIDNA-OPOLIS AND ITS CITIZENS TO THE SAFE ENVIRONMENT OF ANOTHER ZONE ON A TEMPORARY BASIS--

UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE RADIOACTIVE WASTE WAS CLEANED UP

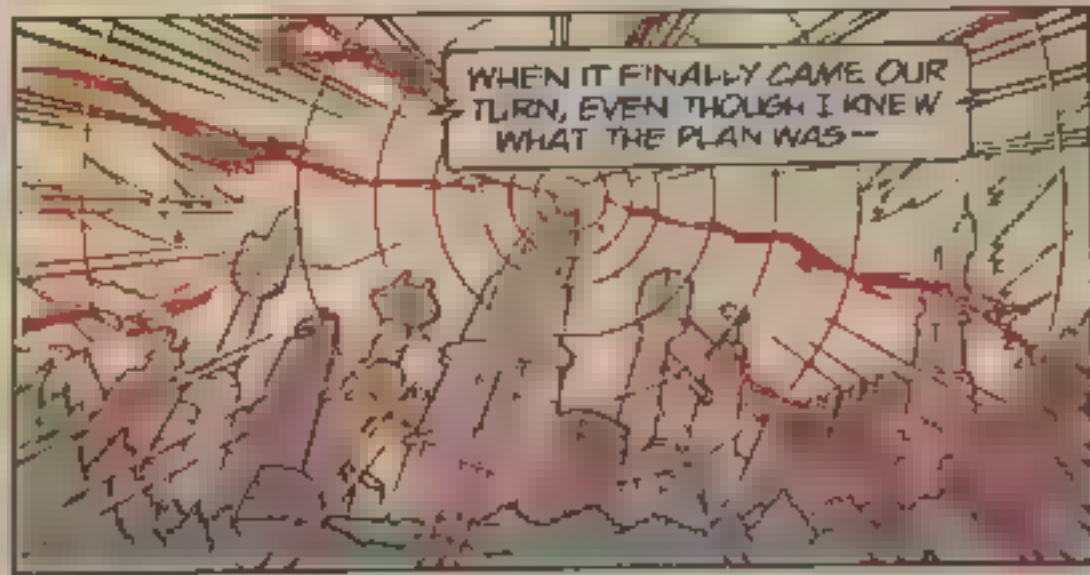


AS I WAS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND, I HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO ALL WHO INHABITED ITS MANY STRANGE AND WONDERFUL REGIONS

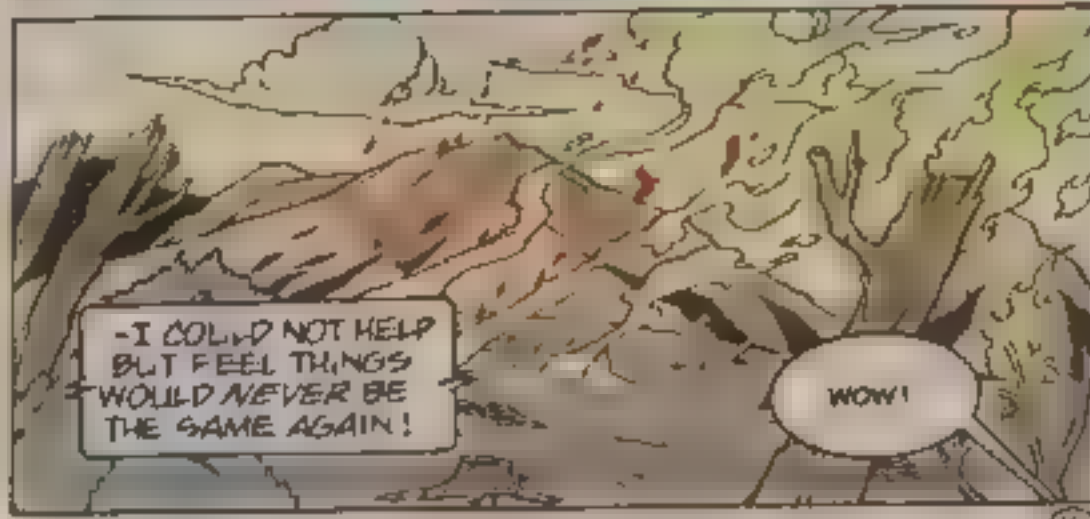


INCLUDING THE DINGOES!

THEY WOULD BE TRANSPORTED TO A ZONE OF SAFETY, ALBEIT ONE DIFFERENT FROM OURS OR ANYONE ELSE'S!

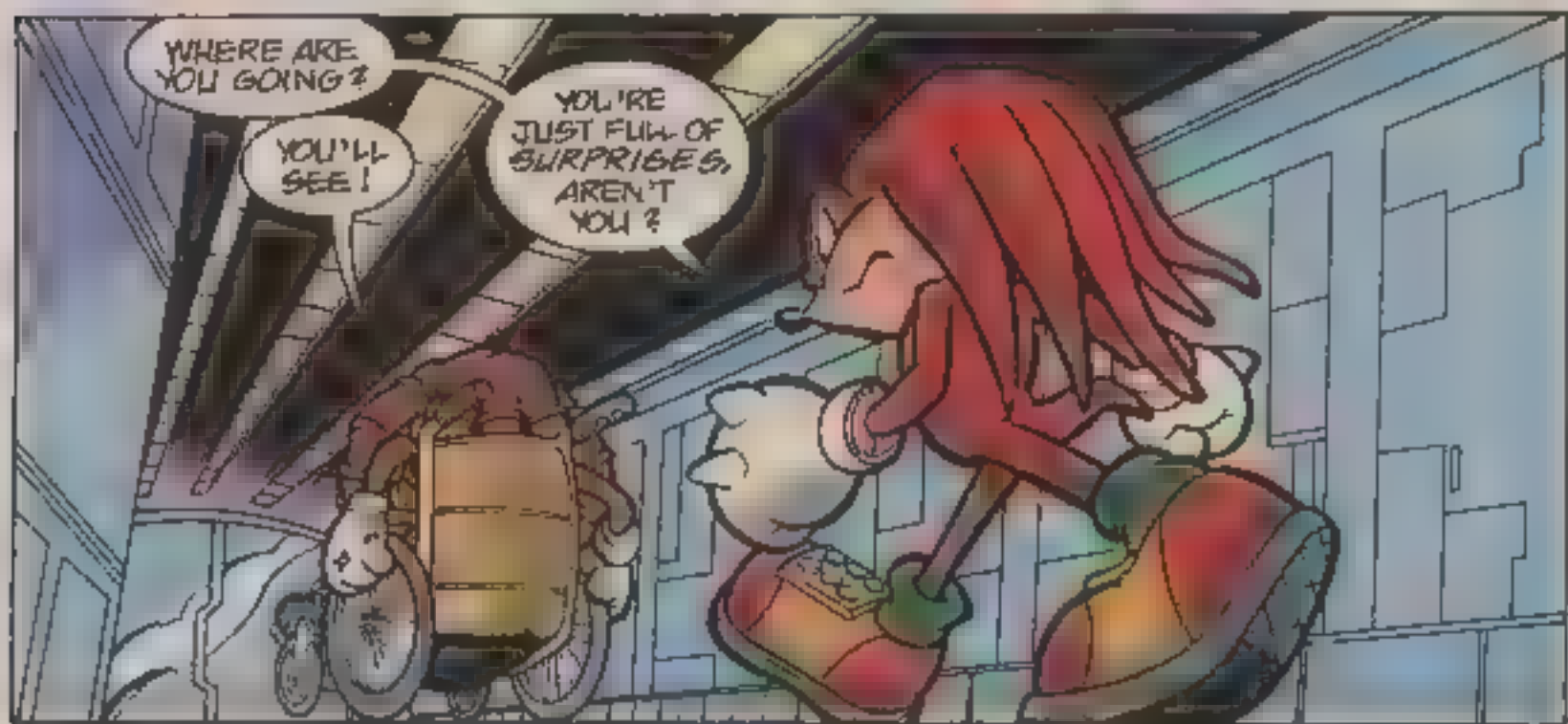
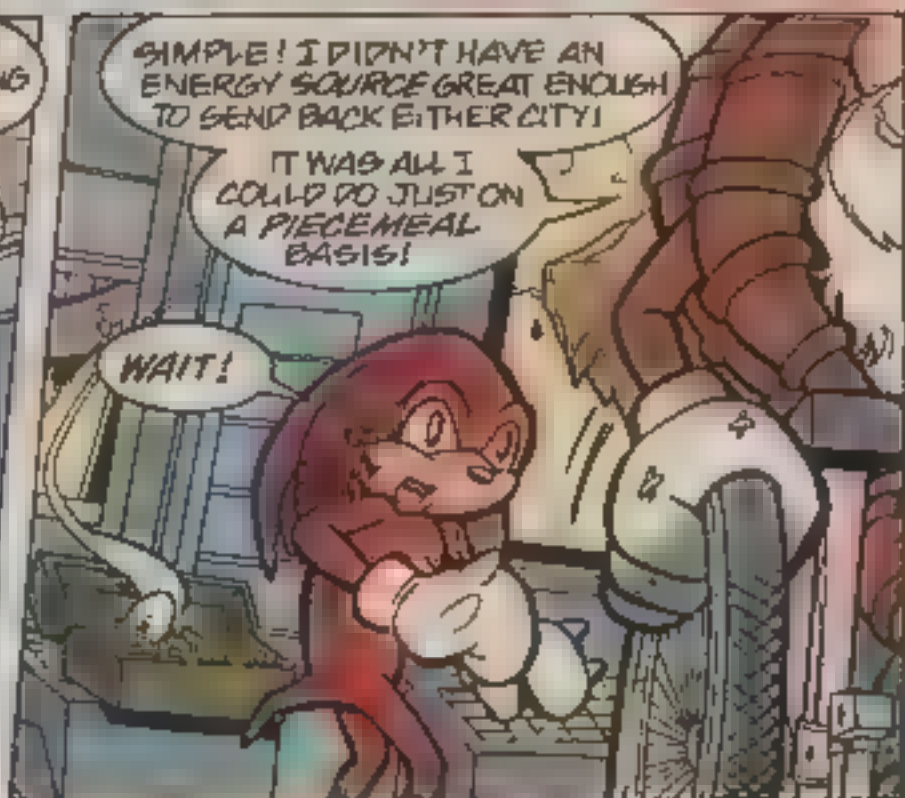
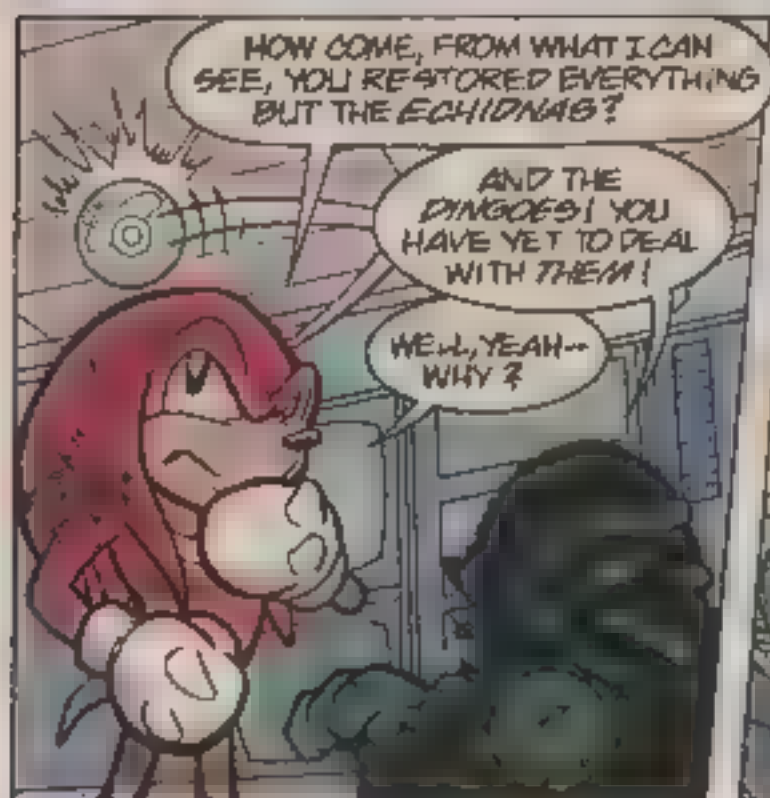
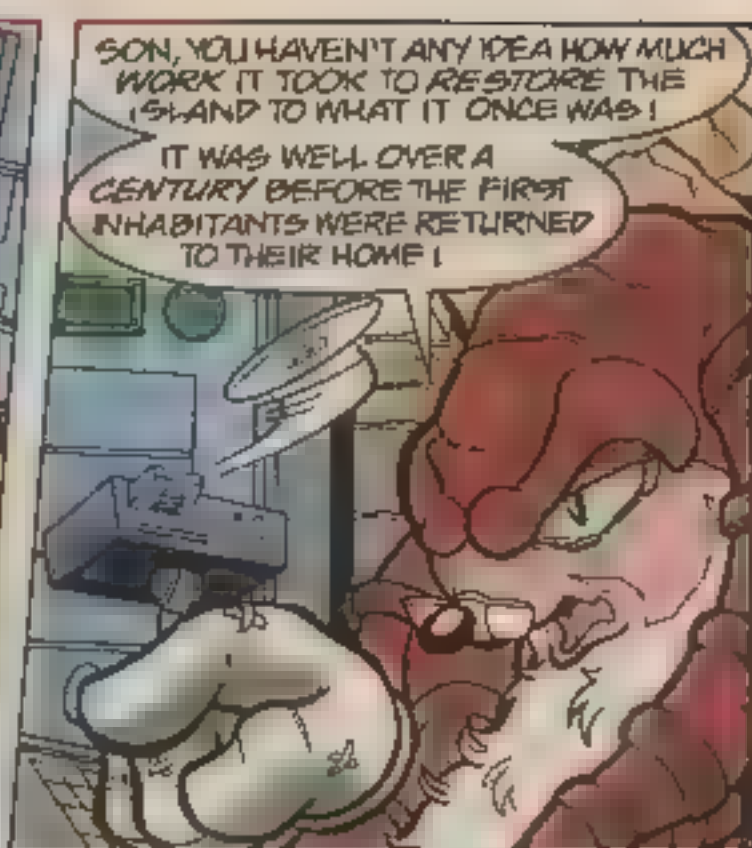
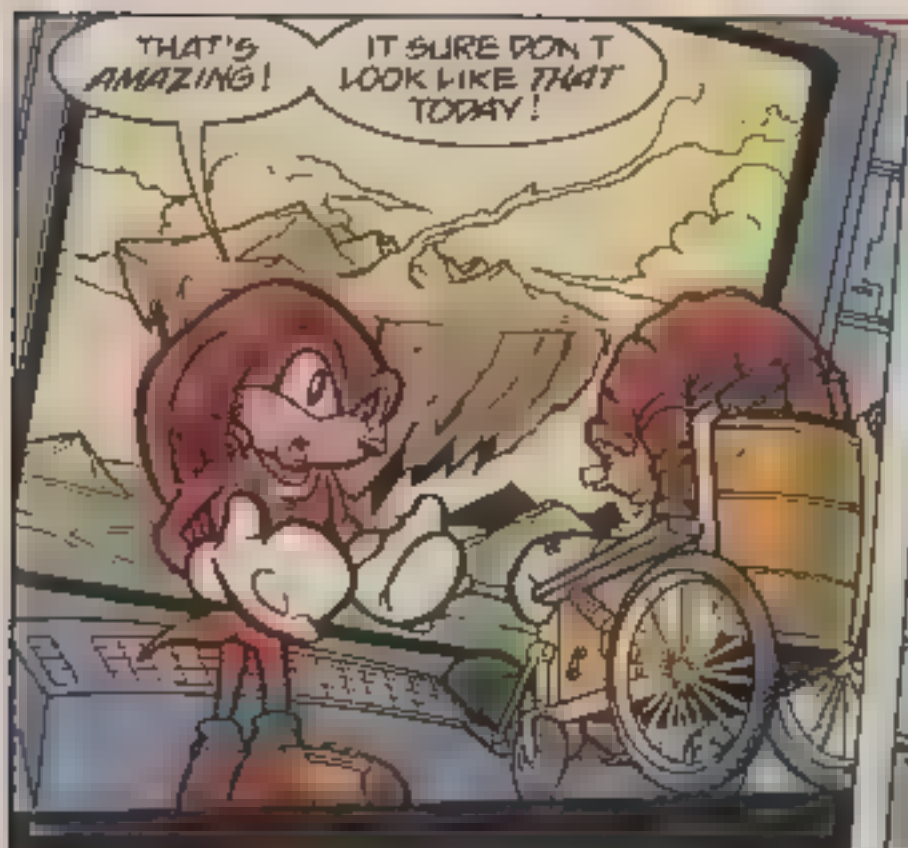


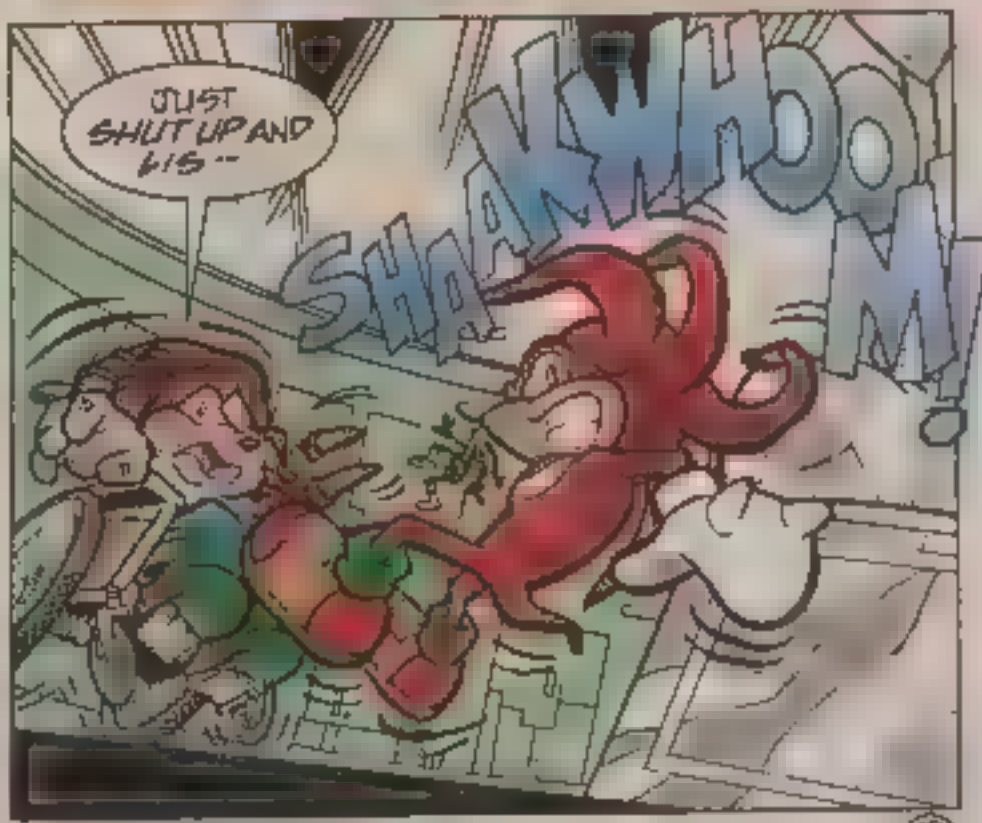
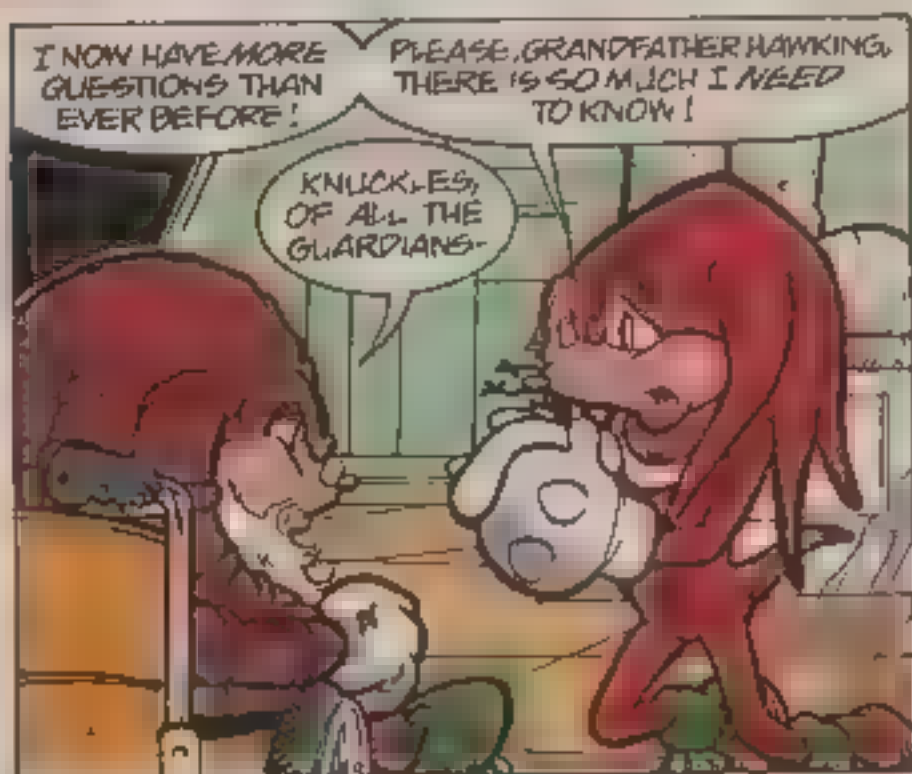
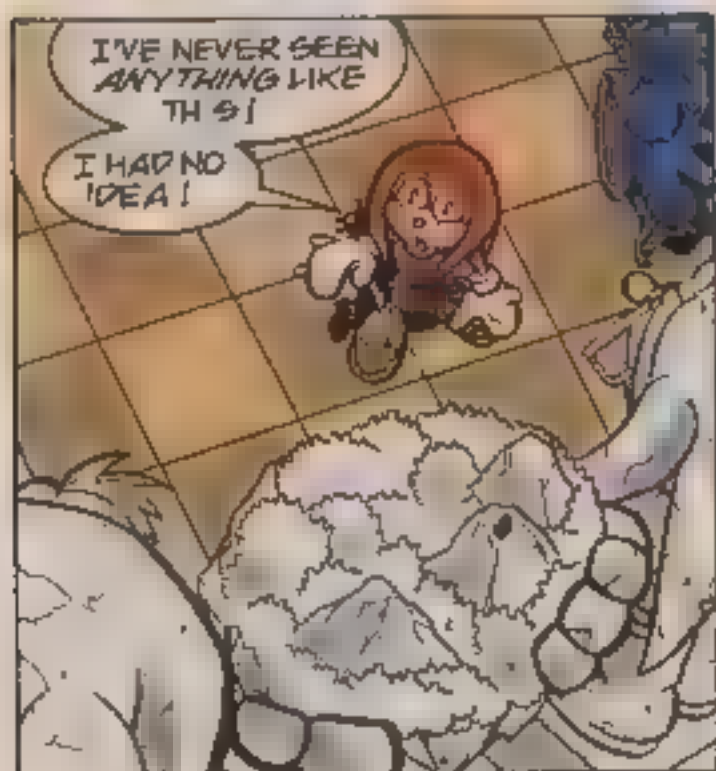
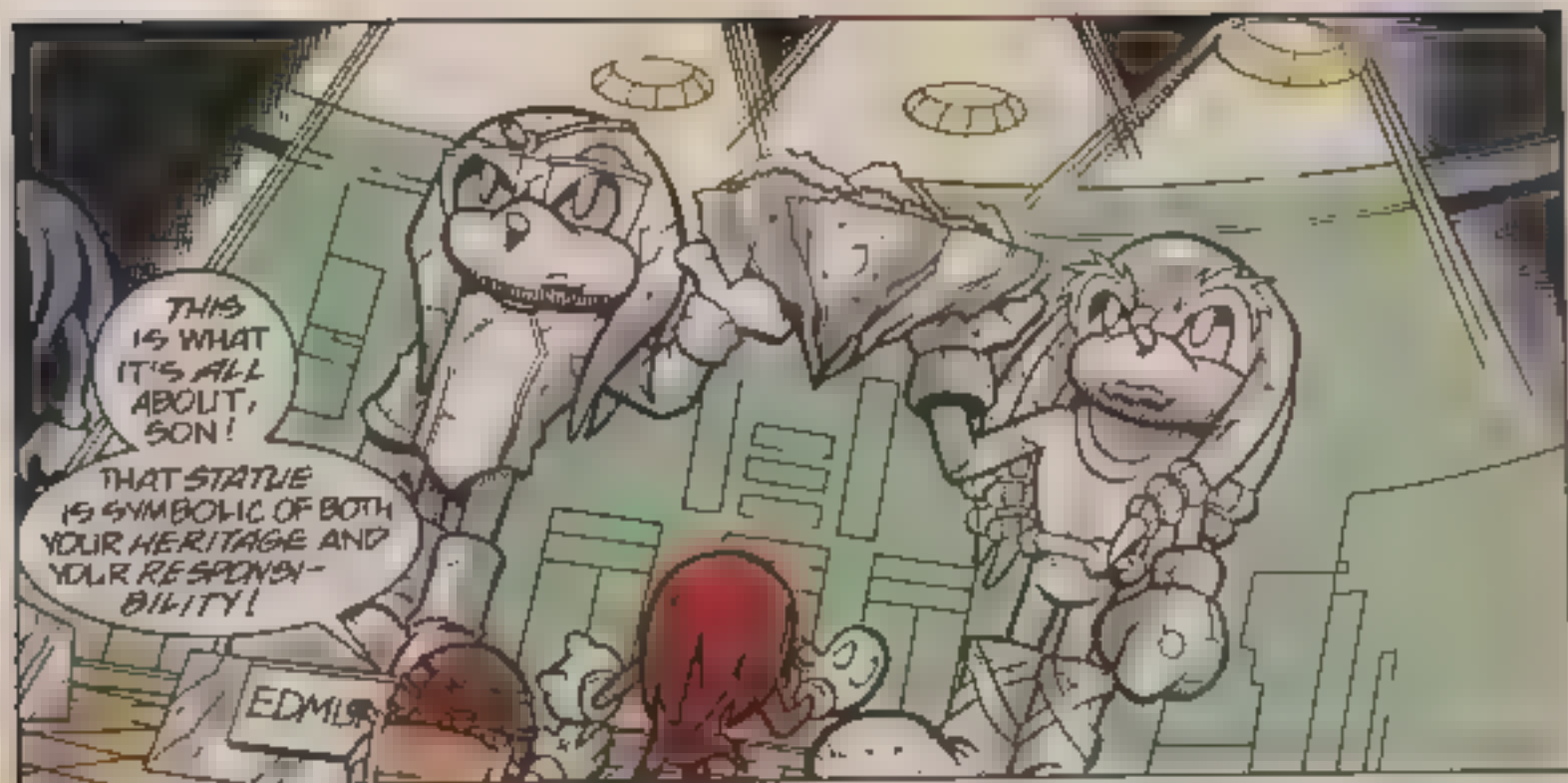
WHEN IT FINALLY CAME OUR TURN, EVEN THOUGH I KNEW WHAT THE PLAN WAS--

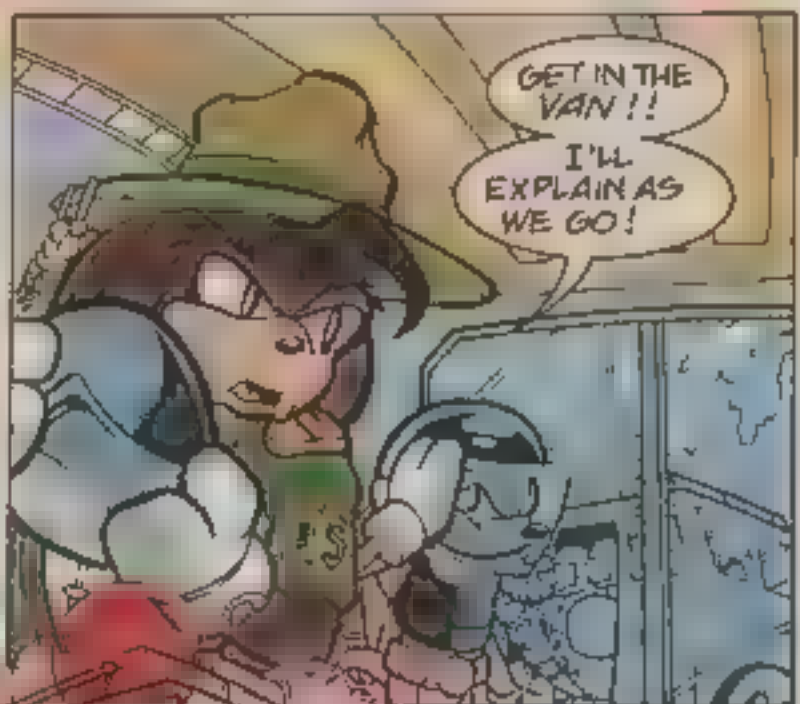
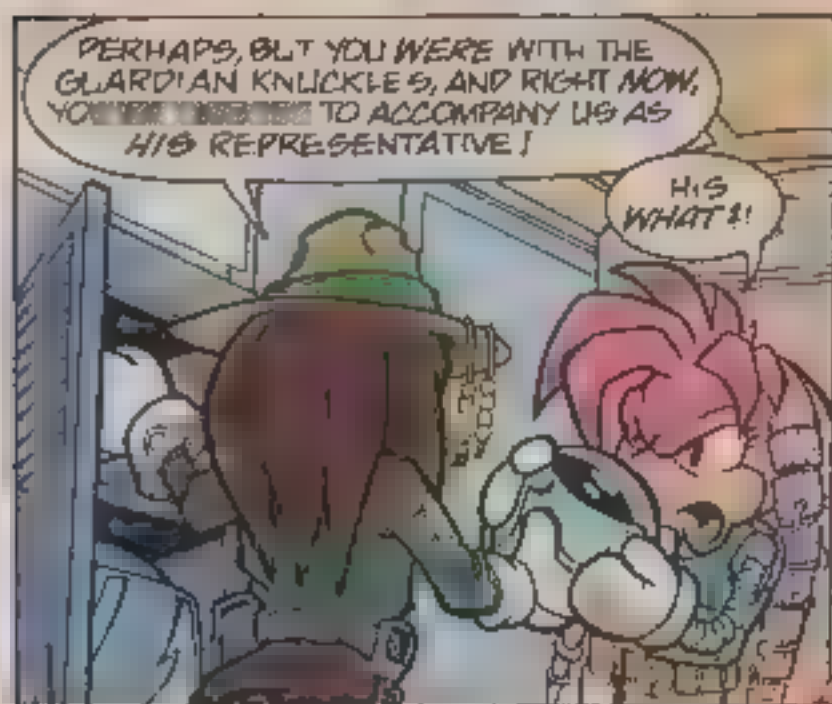
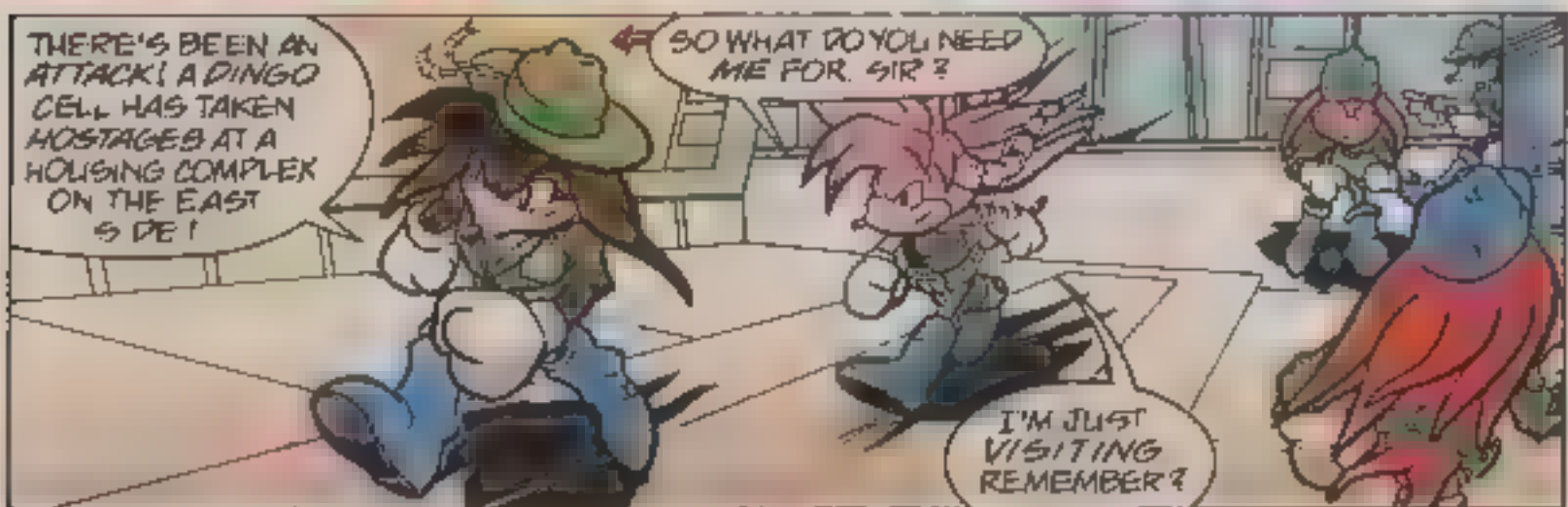
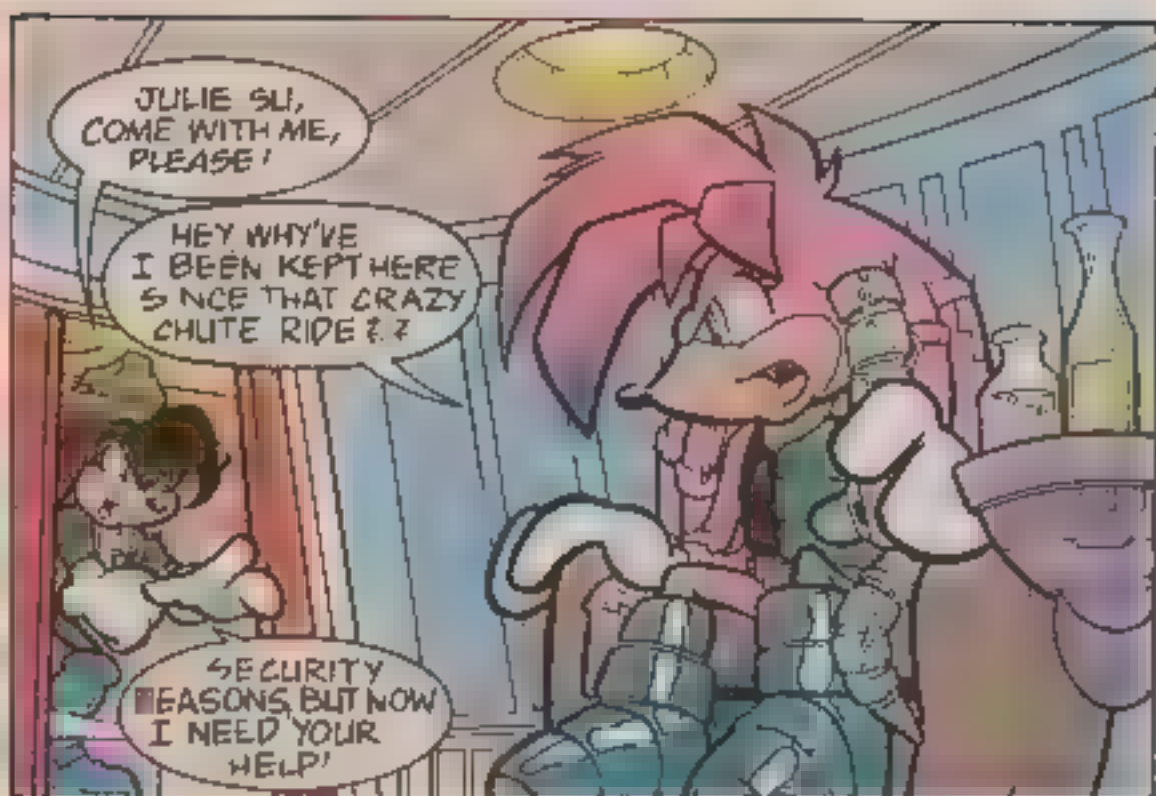
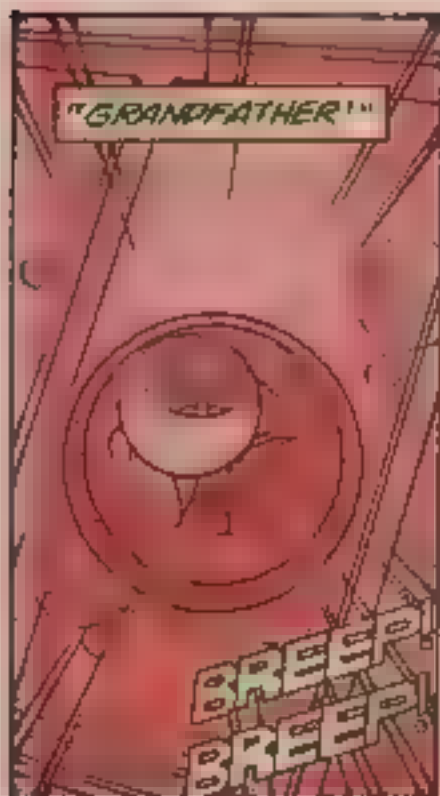


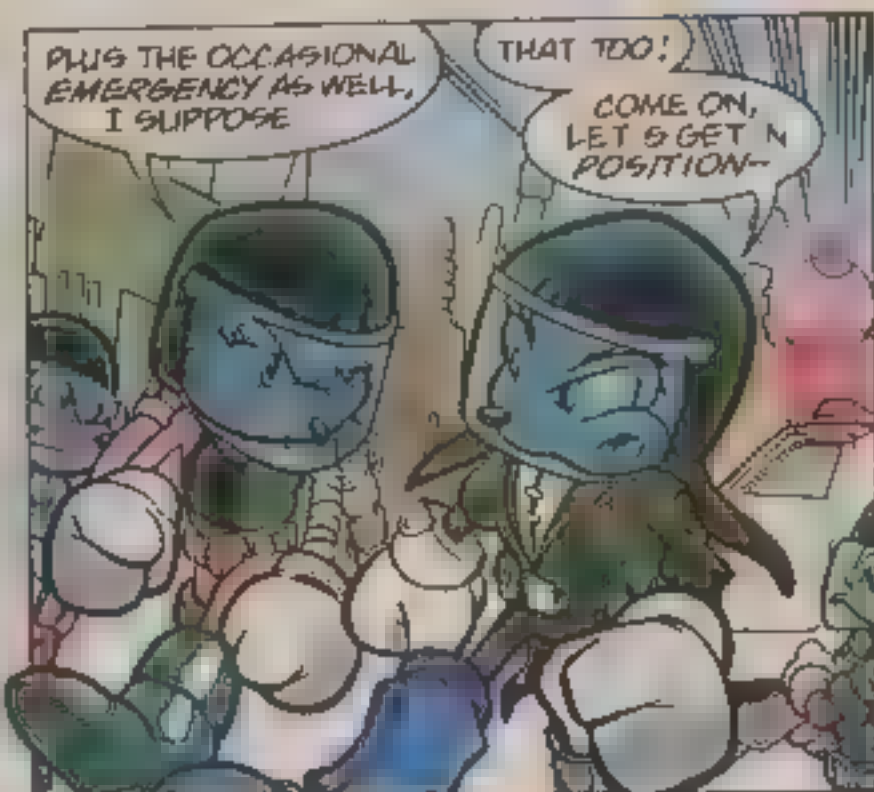
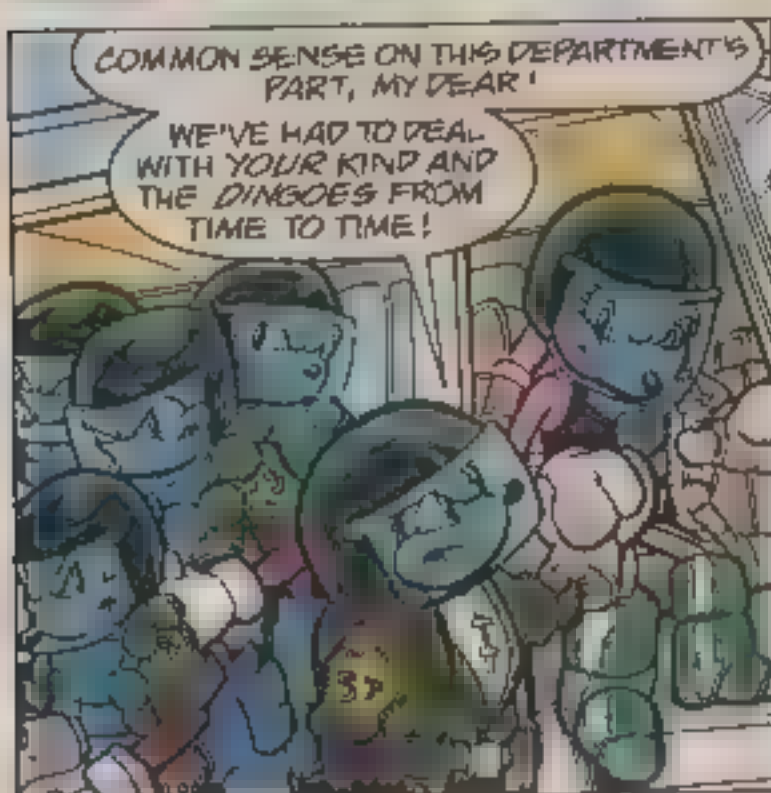
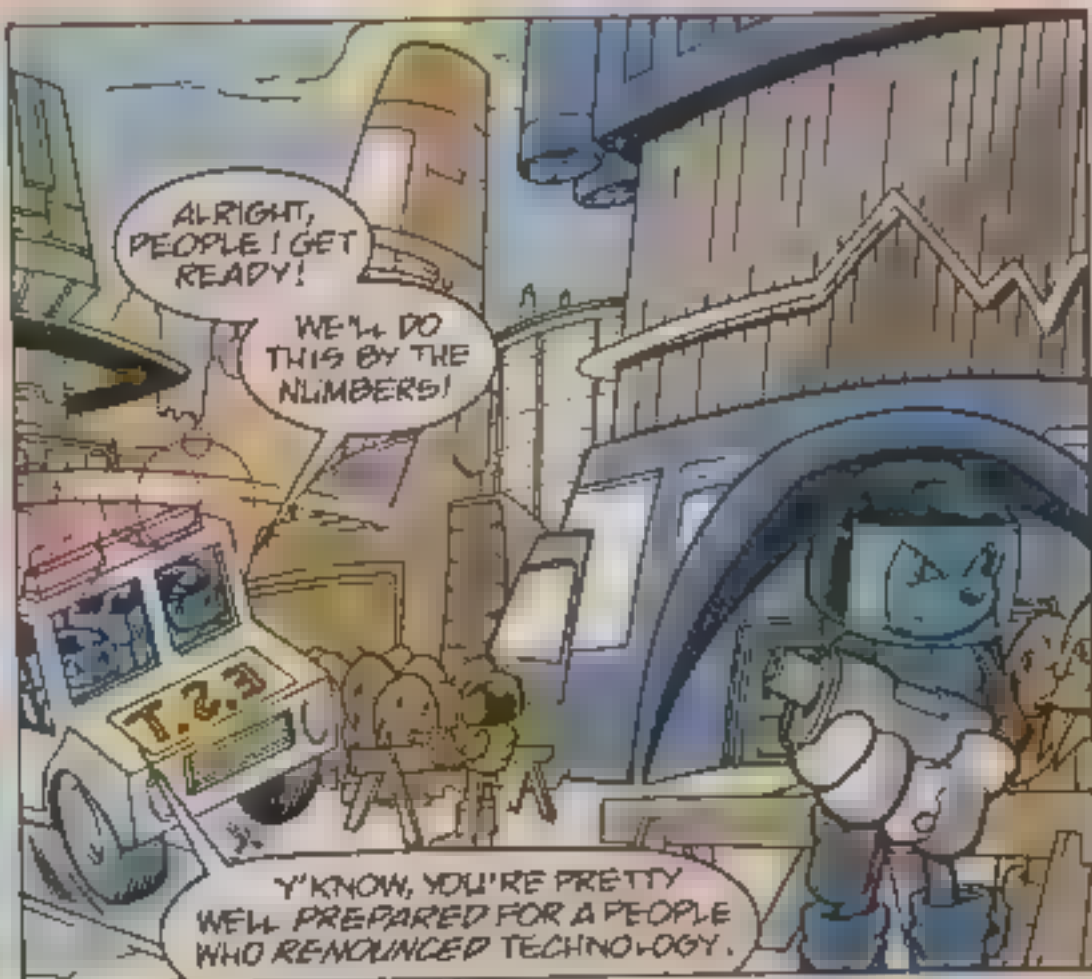
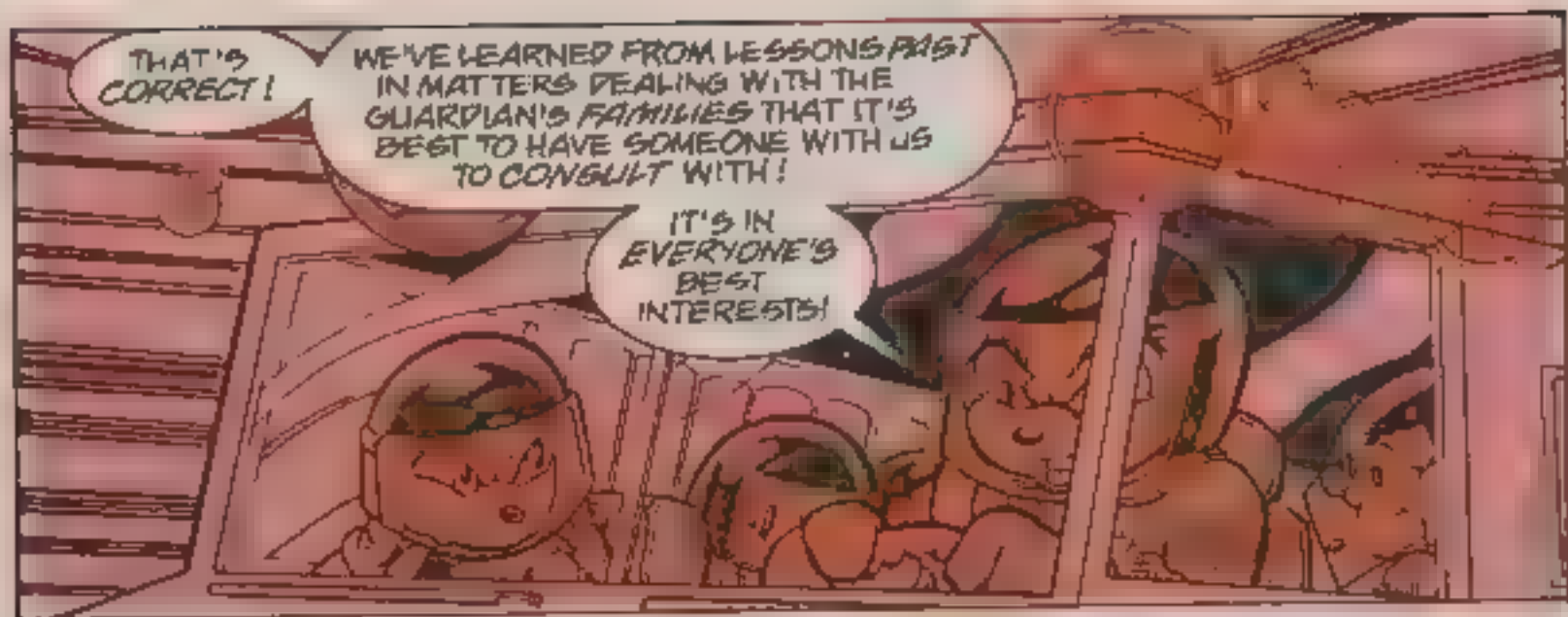
-I COULD NOT HELP BUT FEEL THINGS WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!

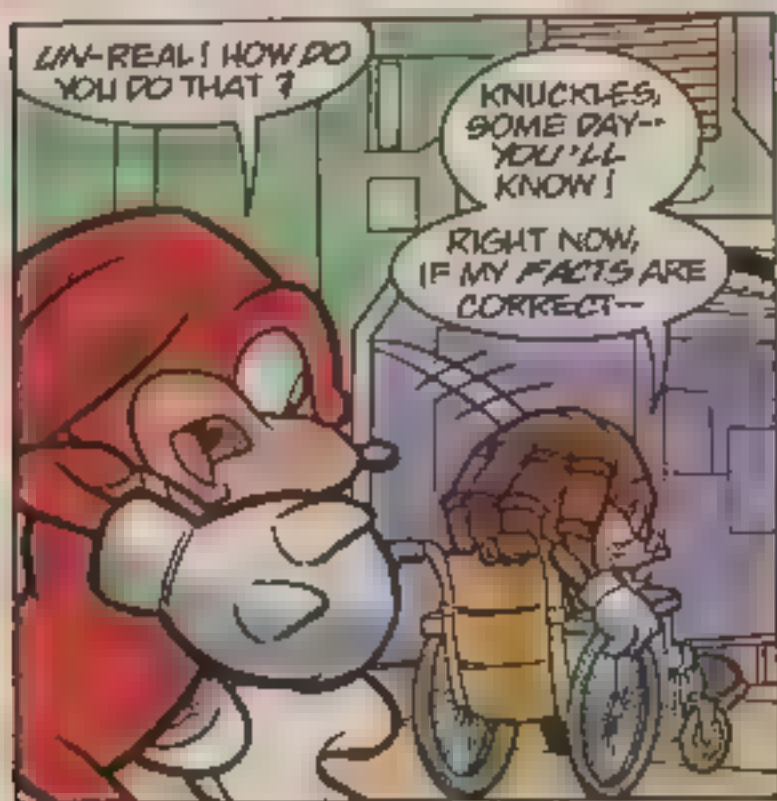
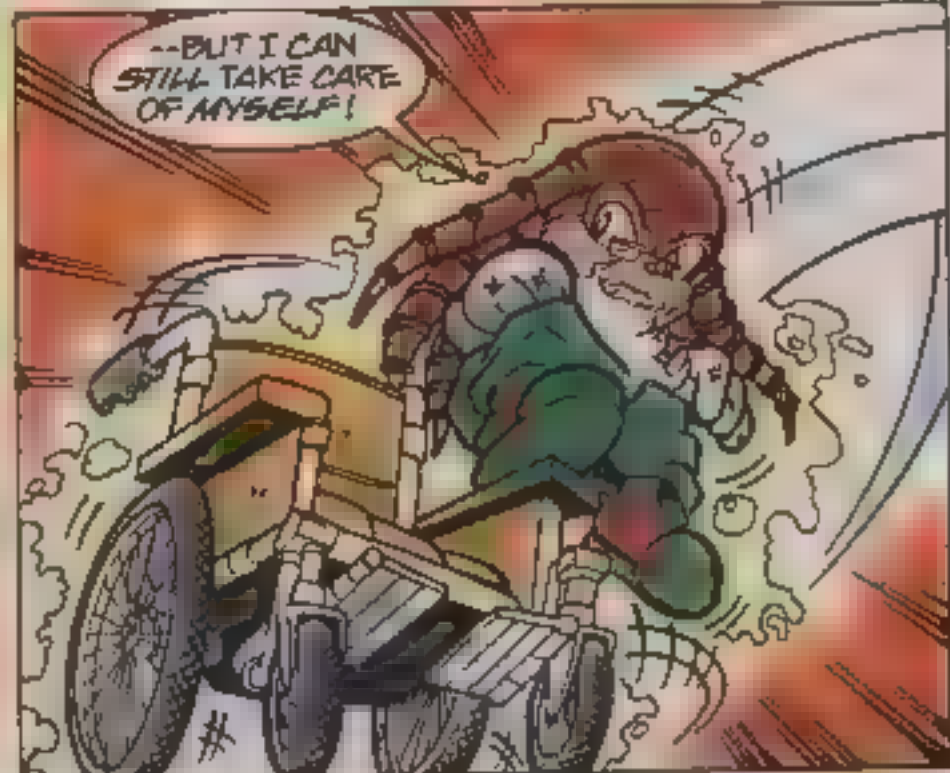
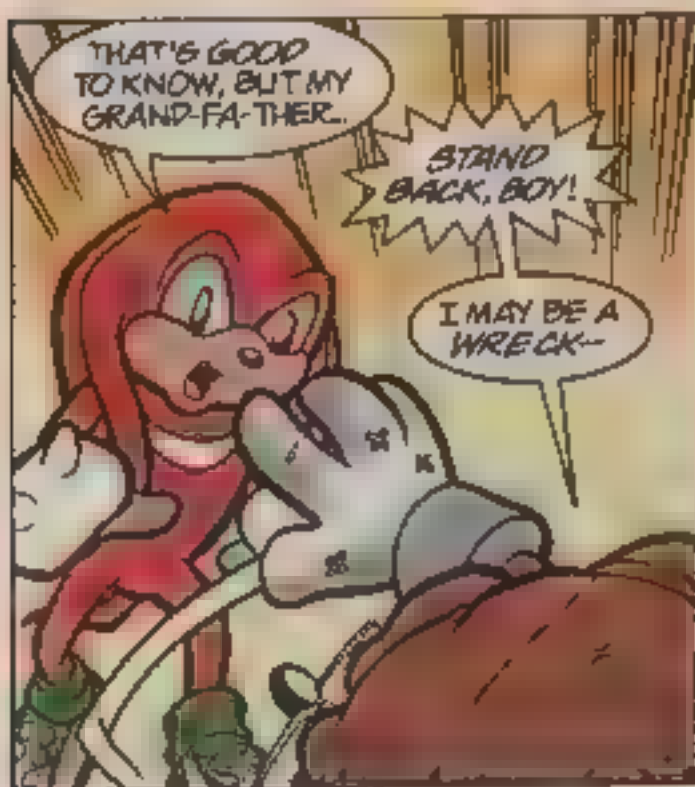
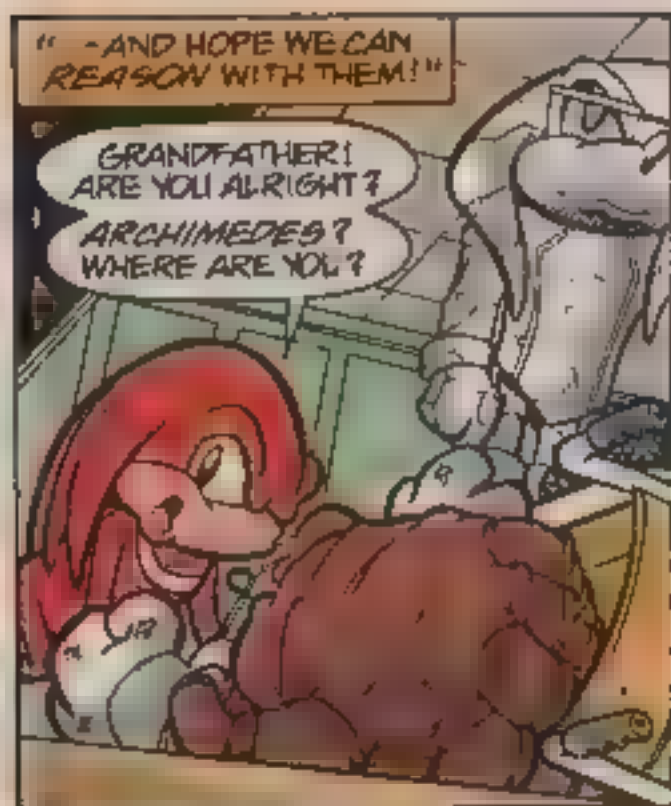
WOW!











WORSE

THAN THAT!

THEY'VE
GOT MY
MOTHER!

LIVE AT
ECHIDNA
TOWERS

STAY
CALM
HAD!

I'M
SURE THERE'S
A PLAN!

YOU BETTER
BELIEVE IT!

THE
QUESTION
BEFORE US,
KNUCKLES-

-- IS WHETHER
YOU'RE READY TO
HANDLE IT!

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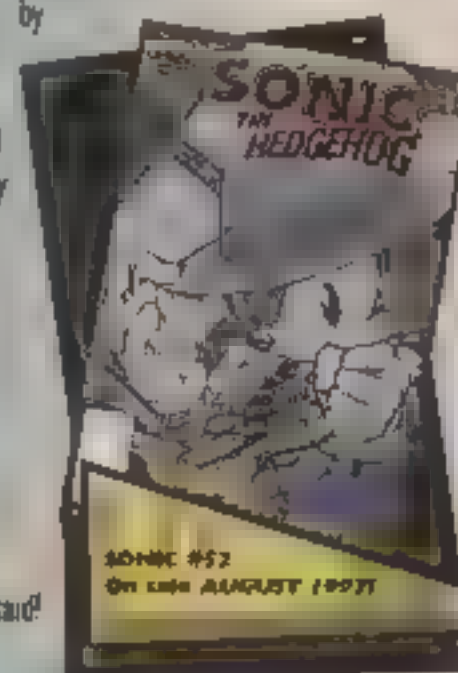
of last issues contest, those letters of yours are coming in as fast and furious as Sonic himself! For those of you just joining in, we issued a contest for best letters page suggestion. Prizes will be given away. Check out last issue for details.

Next Month: With all that's been happening lately The Floating Island has never been busier. Everything comes to a head as Knuckles risks it all to save his mom from the Dingoes. What will happen to Echidnaopolis? Is it back for good, or will it be destroyed? What lengths will General Stryker go to win? These questions and more will be answered in the conclusion of "The Lost Paradise!" in **KNUCKLES #6** on sale Aug. '97!

In other Mobian news, You are cordially invited to the celebration of a lifetime **The Knothole Victory Party!** Let the festivities get under way. But things are not always what they seem as a hidden enemy roboticizes everyone near and dear to Sonic. The Hedgehog! Is Dr Robotnik really gone or has someone else taken over? Story by Karl Bollers. Art by Sam Maxwell and Andrew Pepoy. **SONIC #51** on sale July '97!

Prepare yourself for something different as Sonic falls into a zone with a few minor surprises (and one or two major ones to boot). This one must be seen for yourself. Story by Tom Rolston. Art by Manny Galan and Jim Amash. Also in this issue Princess Sally contacts the major Freedom Fighters of the world. What for? Find out in this story written by Karl Bollers with art by Art Mawhinney and Jim Amash. **SONIC # 52** on sale Aug. '97!

Freddy



P.S. SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #1:
A Brave New World is coming! That's said!

Dear Knuckles,

I just received the first two issues of **KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION**! Like Tony the Tiger, I think "They're Grrrreat!" I absolutely loved it! You can tell when I like a comic because when I read it I get hyper. It would be the bomb, if you get your own regular series. I have some questions for you: 1) What happened to Dimitri's son Menniker in issue one? How come he wasn't shown again? 2) You're an only child. Is your father an only child, too?

Well, I'll close with the artwork in "THE DARK LEGION" series is the best work Manny Galan has ever done! His artwork has really improved since "SONICQUEST: THE DEATH EGG SAGA" series! Also, I think Ken Penders and Kent Taylor make a great writing team. Keep up the good work.

Jessica "Sodapop" Levine (Age 13)
Thornton, IL

Hey, "Sodapop," thanks for your "Grrrreat" compliment. I hope you didn't get hurt bouncing off those walls. If it continues, I'm going to have to issue warnings on the covers of my books saying: "Caution: The contents in this issue might cause temporary wall-bouncing!" Well, on to your questions: 1) By now you know that Menniker was the first Grandmaster of The Dark Legion. In effect, he was shown again. 2) As far as I know, dad was an only child.

Dear Knuckles,

I think you're way cool! My mom said Sonic is cooler, but compared to you, Sonic is the most uncool guy on Mobius. I have some questions for you to answer: 1) Why did your father enter The Forbidden Zone? 2) Where did you get your sneakers? They're much cooler than Sonic's. 3) Do you have a sensitive side besides your macho side? 4) Do you have a mother? 5) Can I join The Chaotix? Well, here are the lyrics for a Knuckles song sung to the tune of Sonic's animated theme song: "Red red flies by. Knuckles The Echidna. He is a strong guy. Knuckles The Echidna. Knuckles, he can really fly. Knuckles, he's got an eagle eye. Knuckles, he's the coolest thing alive. Watch out or he'll get you. Knuckles The Echidna. Don't doubt what he can do. Knuckles The Echidna. Knuckles, he can really fly. Knuckles, he's got an eagle eye. Knuckles, he's the coolest thing alive."

Kyle Nunesh
Covina, CA

Thanks for writing my own song, Kyle. I always thought I was as cool (if not cooler) than Sonic. He can sometimes get a little obnoxious, you know. 1) I don't know why my dad entered into The Forbidden Zone but I hope to find out some day. 2) My dad gave them to me before he left me. 3) I'd like to

think so but I'd never admit it. 4) Uh, yeah. 5) Only if you promise to protect The Floating Island and to read my book every month. Deal?

Dear Knuckles,

I started reading Sonic comics a few years ago when they were very hard to find. Now I see them in more stores making it that much easier to get all the issues I want. I also collect any Sonic mini-series I see. That's when I first saw you and I enjoy reading your adventures, too. Question time: 1) How are The Chaotix doing? 2) Do you think Robotnik will try to launch a surprise attack on The Floating Island? 3) How old are you?

Eric Ashmore
Carrollton, GA

Answer time: 1) The Chaotix are doing just fine, thanks. 2) Now that Robotnik's been defeated, I don't think that's happening any time soon. 3) I am fifteen years old.



Dear Sonic-Notes,

I love your comic and the staff is doing a great job! I have questions from a Knuckles fan: 1) Is Knuckles' dad's name Steppenwolf? 2) Is the Knuckles comic going to get a new bad guy or are they going to wear out The Dark Legion just like they did with Robotnik?

Drew Lyons
iceddrew@juno.com

Thanks for the kind words, Drew. 1) My dad's name is Locke. Steppenwolf is an ancestor. 2) Don't worry about how many bad guys we have because, unfortunately, we have plenty of them. Bad guys from Enerjak to Mammoth Mogul; from Kragok and The Dark Legion to General Stryker and The Dingoes. How's that for starters?

Well, that's it for this month. This is Knuckles—signing off! See you next month!

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